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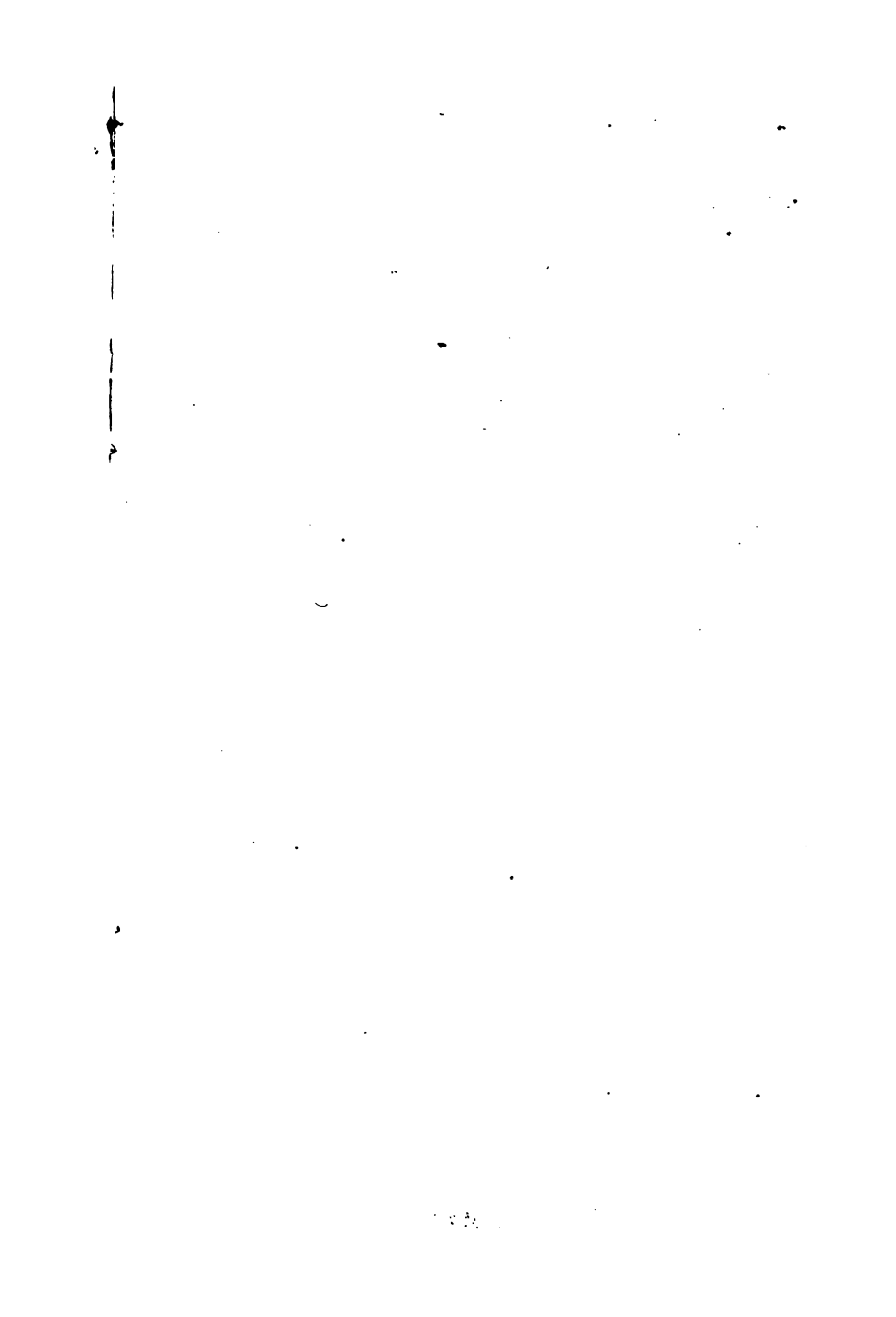
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LA BELLE SAUVAGE YARD,
1884.

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STORIES

FROM

ENGLISH HISTORY.

1. THE ROMANS (B.C. 55—A.D. 410).

1. In old times, England—or Britain, as it was then called—was a very wild country, covered with vast marshes and forests, which were full of wolves and beasts of prey, and the people who lived in the open country were savages. Their only houses were little huts, not much better than the sties into which we put pigs. They wore scarcely any clothes; but they dyed their flesh with the coloured juices of plants, and when the cold weather came they covered themselves with the skins of wild beasts.

2. Now far away in the south of Europe, in Italy, there was a city called Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. Rome was the finest city in the world. Many of the houses there were built of marble, and covered inside and out with beautiful carvings and paintings. The Romans had better laws and better soldiers than any other people in the world; and so wherever they

came they conquered, and forced the conquered people to obey the laws of Rome.

3. At last, Julius Cæsar, the most famous of all the Roman generals, set out to conquer Britain. When the Britons saw the Roman soldiers landing on their coast, they gathered themselves together and mounted their war-chariots and attacked them. But though the Britons fought long and bravely in many battles, the Romans won, because they had the better arms, and were better trained for fighting.

4. Before long, however, Julius Cæsar went back to Rome, taking all his soldiers with him, and he grew in time to be so great that other Romans were jealous of him, and feared that he would make himself king. Therefore they resolved to kill him. So Cæsar never came back to Britain, and for another hundred years the Britons lived on in their old, rough, savage way.

5. Then the Roman armies came again. They conquered the Britons; they made roads for their armies to march along, and towns of brick houses to live in, and strong walls to protect the towns. They built the first beginnings of London, Chester, and York, and of many other towns that are still standing. And the Britons learned to depend upon them for everything. This state of things lasted for about three hundred and fifty years. Then the Romans went away, because enemies were attacking their own homes, and their emperor called them back to defend Rome.



LANDING OF THE ROMANS (B.C. 55).

2. HOW OUR FOREFATHERS CAME TO BRITAIN

(A.D. 450—550).

1. The world in those days was full of robbers and of savage nations, who wandered hither and thither over sea and land, looking for rich countries where they might settle, and slaying and plundering every man who was not strong enough to drive them away. The brave Roman soldiers had been fighting against these nations for hundreds of years, but now the barbarians had grown more powerful than ever, and they overcame the Romans, and, little by little, took possession of all the countries which the Roman soldiers had so long defended.

2. Britain was surrounded with tribes of these barbarians, all eager to rush in and make slaves of the people and rob them of the riches that they had gained under the peaceful rule of the Romans. There were the Picts, who lived in the mountains of Scotland, where the Roman soldiers could not reach them, and the Scots, who then lived in Ireland, and the Saxons, who came from Northern Germany in their ships. They all knew how prosperous and rich Britain was, and hoped to conquer it.

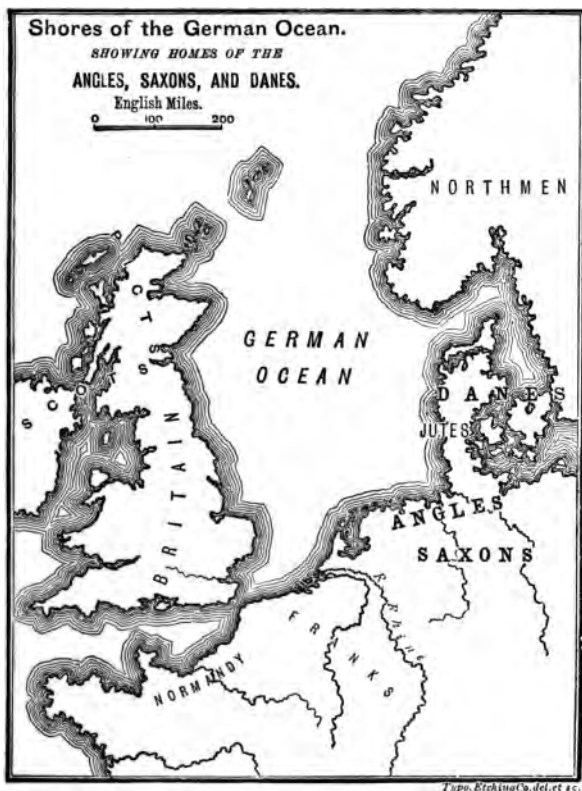
3. So long as the Roman soldiers remained, they protected the country. They built high, strong walls, parts of which you may still see, across the island, to keep out the Picts, and forts all along the coasts, and the Roman soldiers marched up and down between them *day and night*, always ready to resist the barbarians.

4. But when the Romans were gone away, the Britons were quite unable to protect themselves. The barbarians, seeing how helpless they were, came on more boldly than before. They marched into the land, burning the corn and plundering the houses. They killed many of the people, and made slaves of many more. The Britons were sore distressed, and at last their leaders resolved to try and get one tribe of the barbarians to settle in Britain and defend them against all the others.

5. Now in the north of Germany there lived a very strong race of men, tall and fair, and very handsome. They had blue eyes and long yellow hair. They were heathens and barbarians, but they were less savage than the other enemies of the Britons; for they were fond of their homes, and their wives and their little ones, and they liked to live peaceably upon their farm-lands, growing corn and rearing cattle. There were three tribes of them, called the Angles or English, the Saxons, and the Jutes. These people were our own forefathers, just as Englishmen were the forefathers of our relations who live in the colonies and America.

6. The Britons thought that these were the men who would defend them best, and they sent and asked two brothers, called Hengist and Horsa, to come and drive away the Picts and Scots. Hengist and Horsa, being young and bold, at once got ready three ships, and, taking with them as many warriors as the ships would hold, crossed the sea, and drove the Picts out of Britain. They then settled down in the Isle of Thanet, which the Britons gave them for their home.

7. But very soon our forefathers saw that Britain was a better country than Germany. Here were the



wide roads and the harbours, and the cities which the Romans had made, and the fields all drained and cleared, *and ready* for the farmer. They sent message after

message to their countrymen at home, bidding them leave their gloomy forests and swamps and come over to Britain; and they came in shiploads, with their wives and their children and their herds. They were very fierce and destructive in war. They burnt the houses and slew the inhabitants. Many of the Britons died fighting, and a great many more became the slaves of the English; and the remainder were forced to fly from the beautiful cities which the Romans had built to the mountains and rocks of Wales and Cornwall, where their descendants still live.

3. ST. AUGUSTINE (A.D. 597).

1. All these barbarous nations, and the English amongst them, were heathens; they all believed that there were many gods dwelling in the earth and in the sky. But the Romans by this time had become Christians; for ever since the death of Jesus Christ good men had been spreading the knowledge of His life and His teaching in every land of the Roman Empire; and at last an emperor named Constantine learnt the Christian religion, and after this, Christianity became the religion of the emperors, and churches were built all over Europe.

2. The Britons had been heathens when the Romans came. They had priests called Druids, who used to take poor boys and lay them naked on great blocks of stone, and kill them with sharp knives, while the

people stood round and chanted hymns. They thought that their gods were pleased by children's blood. But at length the Roman missionaries persuaded the Britons to worship God as Jesus Christ had taught men. So there were many churches in Britain when the Romans left, and many Christians also.

3. The English, who had come over in their ships, hated the Christians. The god they most honoured was Woden, the god of war; but the Christians said that their worship of him was wicked, and that the practices which were thought to please him were wicked also, and that the only way to please God was to be kind and true and forgiving, and to spend one's life, not in pleasure, or in idleness, or in gain, but in doing as much good as possible to all around. So wherever the English came they burnt the churches and drove out the Christians, until all the inhabitants of Britain were again heathens, except only those who had fled to Wales and Cornwall.

4. But after many years, a holy man called Augustine came from Rome to preach the religion of Christ to the English people. By this time England was divided into many kingdoms, and over each kingdom there was a king, who was believed to be a descendant of Woden, the god of war; and they were always fighting with each other and with the British. But King Ethelbert, who ruled over Kent, had married a French princess called Bertha, who was a Christian; and so when he heard that Augustine had come from Rome, he received him courteously. Bertha gave Augustine and his companions food and drink, and saw that they

were properly lodged and honourably cared for; and about a year later she persuaded King Ethelbert to be baptised, and promise to try and live as Christ had bidden men.

5. After this Augustine and his companions went about England preaching diligently, and a great many were persuaded by their words. But it was not till many years after this that the English became Christians.

4. BEDE, THE MONK OF JARROW (B. 672; D. 735).

1. There were few churches in England then; and most of the towns and villages where men live nowadays were waste and wild. The forests were full of wolves and robbers, and the English were always fighting amongst each other. The good men who came after St. Augustine, and preached Christianity to them, used to gather together in great houses, called monasteries or abbeys, so that they might live quietly out of the strife, and give all their lives to praying and working and learning. Then they went forth and preached, and afterwards returned again to the monastery. They had no wives nor children, and they did not dress like other men, but wore black serge gowns and hoods, so that all might know them to be monks.

2. One of the most famous of these monasteries was at Jarrow, in the north of England, and the most famous monk there was Bede. He wore a serge

gown like the others, and had a little room with a stone floor to live in, and a hard bed of bare boards to sleep on, and scarcely any furniture besides; for the monks lived very plain and hard lives, lest they should become fond of comfort and forget to serve God always.

3. Now almost all books at that time were written in the Latin language, and only learned people understood Latin; so whenever Bede read a Latin book which he thought would be good for everybody to read, he set to work to translate it into the English language. He began to translate into English the Gospel of St. John, that Englishmen might for the first time read it for themselves; but at last he came to die. Bede could not bear to leave his work unfinished, so the more weak and ill he felt the more eager he was to end it. "Go on quickly," he said; "I know not how long I shall hold out, and whether my Maker will not soon take me away." His eyes were dim, and he could not read for himself, and his hand was too weak to hold the pen. But his scholars helped him; one boy read to him and another wrote for him.

4. By-and-by he grew weaker and weaker, and his breath came with difficulty, so that it was painful to him to speak; but the book was not yet finished, so in the early morning he called his scholars to his bedside and bade them begin again to read and write. The boys said to him, "Master, there is still a whole chapter wanting, and you are too worn out to think any more." But Bede answered, "It will be done



A WAR-SHIP OF THE DANES.

easily ; take your pen and write." The boy wrote on all day, and when evening came still the book was not finished, and the master was very weary. It grew dark, and the boy laid down his pen and said, "There is still one sentence not written, dear master." Bede repeated the sentence to the boy. Then he begged his scholars to lift him off his bed and lay him on the stone floor in the place where he was accustomed to kneel when he prayed. They did as he desired, and very shortly afterwards he died ; and all who were with him wondered at his great peace and content.

5. THE DANES (A.D. 833—877).

1. In the old times about which we have been reading there was no one king who ruled over the whole country of England. Now not only England, but Wales, Scotland, Ireland, India, Canada, and Australia, and many other distant lands, are under one English sovereign, Queen Victoria ; but then there were many separate kingdoms in England, and each kingdom had its own king.

2. These kings were generally quarrelling and fighting one against the other, while the Christian teachers were always trying to bring them together, and to draw all Englishmen into one kingdom. At last King Egbert, the ancestor of Queen Victoria, managed, about a thousand years before she was born, to make himself lord of all the kingdoms of England ;

and his descendants have been rulers of England ever since, except for short seasons, when they have proved too weak or too untrustworthy.

3. Egbert was a great ruler and a great fighter; yet it was no easy matter to keep all his different kingdoms in order; and, over and above the trouble he had with them, he was much tormented by some new enemies who began to attack England. These new enemies were called the Danes; they came from the cold countries in the north of Europe—from Sweden and Norway and Denmark. They were more terrible than any of the enemies who had attacked England before. They were very strong, and tall and fierce. They were such men as the English had been before they had become Christians, and they hated all Christians, as the English had once done.

4. The country of the Danes was poor, and did not grow much food for them to eat; and so they coveted the riches of other countries. They were wonderful sailors. They sailed up the mouths of the English rivers as far as the ships could go. Then they strode off to the first church, or monastery, or farm that they could see, burnt the houses and killed all the men who were working about, and seized the gold and silver, the horses and cattle, for their own use. Then they mounted on the horses and rode away to their ships, driving the cattle before them.

5. These were the terrible enemies that King Egbert had to fight against, and after his death they came oftener and oftener, landing where no man expected them. Egbert's son and his grandsons fought hard



to keep them out; but the Danes were too strong, and in the end they came in thousands, as the English had come before, and settled down to live in Norfolk and Suffolk.

6. There was a young English king in those parts whose name was Edmund. The Danes landed in his country, and after killing and robbing his people, they took King Edmund prisoner. They told him he must give up the Christian religion and worship Woden and Thor, the gods of his own ancestors. But King Edmund said he would rather die. So they stripped his clothes off him, and tied him to a tree, and beat him cruelly with rods; and then, when they were tired of scourging him, they stood a little way off and shot arrows into him. At last they struck his head off, and so the poor king's sufferings were ended.

6. KING ALFRED THE GREAT (B. 849; D. 901).

1. King Alfred was one of the noblest and wisest kings who ever governed England, and that is why we call him Alfred the Great. He was not master of the whole of England, as his grandfather Egbert had been. The Danes had conquered the greater part of the land by this time, and Alfred was only king of the south country. His kingdom was called Wessex—the “country of the West Saxons.” At last the Danes overran Wessex also, and many of the people of the country fled to the sea-coast and took ship and sailed across the sea to France.

2. King Alfred himself, with a few faithful followers, went away and hid in the marsh lands that are about Athelney, in Somersetshire. There he lived like a homeless beggar. He wandered about from one hiding-place to another, amongst the swamps and forests which then covered great parts of England.

3. One day he took shelter in the cottage of a peasant-woman. The good woman was busy baking some cakes, and presently, as Alfred was sitting by the fire, she asked him to mind the cakes while she was away, and turn them over when they began to get brown. King Alfred promised willingly enough, but he began to think of all the troubles of his kingdom. He quite forgot the cakes, which burned first brown and then black. Then suddenly the good woman came back, and smelt her cakes burning on the hearth, and she flew into a great passion, and turned upon the king, and called him a "lazy loon," and boxed his ears. But the king knew it was wrong of him not to be more careful when she had been so kind to him, and was not at all angry, but begged her forgiveness for his carelessness.

4. When summer came, the king's followers gathered round him again. Then Alfred dressed himself like a poor minstrel, and took his harp in his hand, and stole away, and came into the camp of the Danes, that he might learn all their plans. He played so beautifully that the Danes took him to the tent where their king and his chiefs were feasting and making plans for the war. They went on talking while he played, till Alfred had heard all their secrets. Then

he departed to his army, and next day he led his men forth, and a great battle was fought, in which the English at last beat the Danes.

5. After this battle King Alfred invited the Danish king Guthrum to meet him; and they settled that the Danes should live quietly in the eastern and middle and northern parts of England, which were called the Danish country, or the Danelagh, and that they should be governed by Guthrum, and that Alfred and the English should keep the rest, and that there should be no more war.

6. Alfred now went back to his royal palace, and he made a great many good laws. The hardships he had suffered during his wanderings made him think with compassion of the sufferings of the poor people; and all his life he tried hard to make such laws as help poor people to live comfortably, and he was very angry whenever he found out that any of his judges were unjust to poor people, or his nobles cruel to them.

7. In those days very few people, except priests and monks, knew how to read and write. But one day, when Alfred was a little boy, the queen showed him and his brothers a beautiful book with painted pictures, and said she would give it to whichever of the boys could read it first. Before long Alfred went to the queen and read to her out of her book, and she kept her promise and gave it to him.

8. When once Alfred had learned to read, he liked reading so much that all his life long he gave as much time as he could to books. Like Bede the monk, he wished others to know the books he liked best, so he

translated some of his favourite books from the Latin language into English. And now that he was a king again he set up a great many schools.

9. King Alfred was the most busy man in his kingdom. He found it very difficult to get all his work done in the day, so he appointed a time for doing each thing, and made a rule always to do it at that time. He resolved to spend, each day, eight hours in sleeping and eating and drinking, eight hours in business, and eight in prayer and study. But there were no clocks in those days, so he had candles made which burnt an inch every twenty minutes, and by watching these candles he could tell how the time was going. At first he was troubled because the wind used to make his candles burn too fast; so he invented boxes of transparent horn to set his candles in and keep them out of the wind. Indeed, there was nothing at which King Alfred was not clever and persevering.

7. DUNSTAN (B. 925; D. 988).

1. After Alfred was dead, there came two great kings, his son Edward and his grandson Athelstan, who fought against the Danes, and subdued them. But the kings after Athelstan were weak, and terrible times came upon England. There were fresh wars and fierce battles, and at last the Danes conquered and ruled over all England.

2. But this was not just yet, for there was a wise man called Dunstan, who strove hard for many years to make the Danes and English live together as one people. Dunstan was born near Glastonbury in the same year that Athelstan became king. He was the son of a great lord who possessed lands and wealth. He was a very clever boy, very pleasant and lovable, and he had beautiful golden hair. The monks of Glastonbury taught him reading and writing, Latin and Greek, and many curious and beautiful arts besides. He became a skilful painter and carver; he was clever at working in metals, and he could play beautifully on the harp.

3. When Dunstan grew up, he made up his mind to become a monk, and live with his old teachers in the Abbey of Glastonbury. So he put on a serge gown, and shaved off his golden hair, and lived in a little cell with a stone floor, as Bede did. He went on painting and playing on the harp and working in metals as before; and he gave all his work to the decoration of the abbey church. But at last, when Edgar, the grandson of Alfred, came to be king, he made Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury.

4. Dunstan was now a very busy man, for he was the king's chief counsellor, and was answerable for the welfare of the whole kingdom; and he tried hard to make the Danes and English live peaceably together.

5. But King Edgar died, and left two young sons. Edward, who was thirteen, was the eldest, and Edgar had wished him to reign; but his mother had been dead

many years, and his stepmother, the Queen Elfrida, was determined that her own son Ethelred should be king. So there was a dispute, and the Meeting of the Wise Men of England was called to choose between them. Dunstan had no doubt that Edward ought to be king ; so when the assembly was gathered together, Dunstan took Edward by the hand and led him into the midst of it, and solemnly charged the nobles to elect him. They knew that he was right, and they obeyed him.

6. But when the Wise Men elected Edward, the queen hated him more than ever, and determined to kill him. Now one day Edward was hunting near to Corfe Castle, where Elfrida and Ethelred lived ; he was tired and thirsty, and he thought, " I will go and rest at Corfe, where my stepmother Elfrida and my brother Ethelred are." So he rode up to the door of the castle, and Elfrida came out to meet him, and she kissed him.

7. Then Edward said, " I am very thirsty ; give me something to drink." And Elfrida sent a servant to fetch a cup of wine ; and while the king was drinking the wine she made a sign to the servant, and he stabbed him in the back. The king, feeling the wound, cried out, " I am murdered," and, thrusting his spurs in his horse's sides, rode away ; but he was too much hurt to be able to keep in his saddle. He fell, and caught his foot in the stirrup, and the horse galloped away, dragging him along the road ; and so he died.

8. And now Ethelred was king, and Archbishop Dunstan crowned him. But as he put the crown on the boy's head, he said to him, " Since thou hast got



ASSASSINATION OF KING EDWARD (A.D. 978).

the kingdom by the murder of thy brother, whom thy mother shamefully slew, the sword shall not leave thy house till the crown has passed to one of another race and language." And these solemn words were wonderfully fulfilled, as we shall read presently.

9. Archbishop Dunstan lived to be sixty-three, which was a great age in those days, and he had been the servant of seven kings, one after another. One day, after he had preached in the cathedral and blessed all the people there, he told them that he was about to die, and he spoke a few words of farewell to them. Then he chose the spot where he would be buried, and three days after he died.

8. KING CANUTE (A. 1016—1042).

1. When Dunstan died, King Ethelred was only nineteen, and the foolish young man chose bad counsellors, who flattered him, and thought only of their own quarrels and their own interests, and did not care for the good of the kingdom. He was a very undecided man, and so the English called him the "Unready." The terrible Danes quickly found out that England had no longer a king strong enough to defend the land, so they began to torment the English people worse than ever. They came across the sea and forced their ships up the rivers, burned villages, and stole cattle, and slaughtered people or else carried them off to sell as slaves.

2. At last King Ethelred fled away to Normandy,

and Sweyn, the Dane, forced the English to obey him. His son Canute succeeded him, and became a very great prince, ruling not only over England, but over Denmark and Norway besides. But Canute had to fight hard against the English before they would obey him; for Ethelred had a brave son, called Edmund Ironside, whom the English loved and wanted for their king, and he came back from Normandy, and fought for them against Canute. But Edmund died, and then the English fought no more, and obeyed Canute. Canute was terrible in battle, but he gave good laws to the country, and dealt justice evenly to Englishmen and Danes, and compelled them to live peaceably together.

3. He married Queen Emma, the widow of Ethelred the Unready, and this pleased the English. But Canute could not trust himself among the people as the English kings had done. He gathered about him an army of hired soldiers, who were always ready to fight against rebels, or any who should invade the land.

4. Canute was so great a king that his courtiers began to think that he was as great as a god, and could do whatever he pleased. But Canute was too wise to believe them; so one day, when the courtiers had been wearying him with foolish flatteries, he commanded them to carry his throne down to the sea-coast, and set it close to the edge of the waves, and he sat down in his state chair by the sea-shore, with his crown on his head and his sceptre in his hand.

5. The tide was coming in, and the waves were already close to the king's feet, and in a very few

minutes they must come up over him if he did not move back. And Canute stretched out his sceptre over the waves and commanded them to come no farther. But the waves rose higher and higher, and soon the feet of the king and the courtiers were in the water. Then at last Canute got up, and, turning away from his flattering courtiers, he said, "See what a slight thing is the power of a king." And he bade them keep their praises for Him whom alone the winds and waves obey.

6. When he died, Canute divided his kingdoms between his sons, and these were violent men ; so war and disorder broke out again in England.

9. EARL GODWIN (B. 990 ; D. 1053).

1. When Emma, the wife of King Ethelred, fled to Normandy, to escape from the Danes, she took her two little boys, the youngest sons of Ethelred, with her. Normandy was a country in the north of France which had been conquered by Northmen like the Danes many years before ; but by this time these Normans, as they were called, had become like Frenchmen in speech and manners. The two sons of Ethelred were called Alfred and Edward ; and afterwards, when King Ethelred was dead and Emma came back to England in her widow's dress and married King Canute, she left the little princes behind her, *and they were taught and trained like little Norman*

boys. They learnt to speak the Norman language, which was more like French than English ; and they dressed in the Norman fashion, and made friends among the Norman barons. They wore short capes that came only down to their elbows, and the English lords wore long cloaks. They cut their hair short, and Englishmen in those days wore long curls. And, above all, they talked Norman-French instead of English ; so that though they were of the royal house of England, they were like Normans, and not like Englishmen in their ways. The only thing about them that was like Englishmen was their fair hair and skin. When King Canute was dead and his sons were ruling in England, Queen Emma invited Alfred and Edward to come and see her.

2. There lived at that time an Englishman named Godwin, whom Canute had promoted to great power and honour. He was Earl of all Wessex. He had enormous wealth, and was able to raise an army or a fleet stronger than the king's army or the king's fleet.

3. Earl Godwin knew that, for all their French ways, Alfred and Edward were the real English princes. He feared that some day the English might choose one of them for their king, instead of the Danish sons of Canute, and that then, perhaps, his power would be taken from him. And he thought that Normans would come over to help in the government, and that all kinds of French customs, which he hated, would be introduced. A letter was written to Prince Alfred, who was the elder of the two, full of kind words of greeting, beg-

ging him to come up to London and visit the court. So Prince Alfred set out for London. But a band of armed men were sent to waylay him upon the road; and when the prince came by they fell upon him, and murdered many of his attendants. The prince himself was treated very cruelly, and at last his eyes were put out, and soon after he died.

4. The Lady Emma and her son Edward both fled beyond the sea. Prince Edward went back to Normandy, where his cousin William was now duke.

5. Before long the English people were tired of being ruled by the violent sons of Canute. They saw that Prince Edward was very good and pious, and he had courteous manners. Then, too, they remembered that he was an Englishman by birth, and that he came of the royal family of Edgar and Alfred and Athelstan; and they wished to have him for their king.

6. They wished it so strongly that even the powerful Earl Godwin dared not oppose them, though he greatly feared that Edward, on becoming king, would not only take away his power, but perhaps punish him for the wicked murder of his brother Alfred. So he made Edward promise to marry his own daughter before he allowed him to be crowned; for he said to himself, "He will not like to punish the father of his wife." And so Edward married Earl Godwin's daughter, and the crafty earl kept all the wealth and the power that he had held under the Danes; and though many Norman friends of Edward did come to England, Godwin was still the most powerful man in the kingdom.

10. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR (A. 1042—1066).

1. King Edward lived in the royal palace, and wore the crown and was called king; but he would have liked better to be a monk, and spend his days reading and singing and praying in a monastery. So he let Earl Godwin manage the business of the kingdom, and he gave all his time to books and religious works; and his life became so like that of a monk that people called him the "Confessor," which was a name sometimes given to monks.

2. Edward the Confessor felt lonely at his English court amongst the rough English nobles, many of whom could not read or write, and cared for nothing but feasts, and fighting, and power. He wanted to have his Norman friends about him; but the English did not like to see Norman knights and bishops about the court, and to hear the king talking with them in a language they could not understand; and Godwin became very popular because he was the enemy of the Normans.

3. But the king grew greatly displeased with Godwin, and commanded him to leave the country altogether. So Godwin departed for a time to a foreign land.

4. Now while Earl Godwin was beyond the seas, King Edward's cousin, William, Duke of Normandy, came to see him. William persuaded Edward to make him King of England when he should die. He had no right to be King of England. The English wanted no more foreign kings, and the rightful heir was Edgar,

the grandson of that brave Edmund Ironside who had fought so steadfastly against the Danes. But William thought that, as other Northmen had reigned in England, he might do so too; and when he had set his mind on a thing he always managed to do it. Edward promised all he wished, but secretly, and William went back to Normandy determined to be the next King of England.

5. But before many months were past, Earl Godwin sailed over to England with all his ships. The English were rejoiced that he had come back to resist the Normans, and the Wise Men of England, being called together, told Edward that he must forgive him; so he returned to all his old power. This was very bad news for William; for Godwin and his son Harold were the men amongst all the English whom he feared most. William suspected that Godwin meant to take the kingdom for himself, or for his son Harold, and, in any case, he knew that they would fight to the last against a Norman king.

6. But William waited and watched for Edward's death for fifteen years, and everything turned out as he wished. One evening it happened that Godwin was sitting at a great banquet with King Edward. As he ate and drank he fell down in a fit and died, and William had no more to fear from him.

7. Harold, who was as brave and powerful as Godwin, and much more beloved, was still left to protect the English, and for many years Harold ruled the country well, and the English were happy under him and loved him greatly.

8. But one day Harold was sailing in the Channel, when a storm arose and drove his ship upon the coast of Normandy, where he was in William's land and in his power. William welcomed him with great friendliness; but when Harold had had his ship mended, and wanted to depart, William told him that King Edward had promised to leave England to him, and he would not let Harold go till he also had promised to help him to get the kingdom when Edward, who was now an old man, should die. Harold at first refused, but finding that unless he promised he would remain a prisoner in Normandy, he at last consented, and William allowed him to go home.

9. The very next year King Edward died. So the Wise Men of England met in council to settle who should be king. They rejected William, and passed over the young Edgar, who was not strong enough for those dangerous times, and chose Harold to be king. Then, in spite of the oath which William had forced him to swear, Harold assented, and was crowned King of the English.

11. THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS (A.D. 1066).

1. William, Duke of Normandy, was hunting, when a messenger came to him with the news that Edward the Confessor was dead, and that Harold was king. William became white with rage. For fifteen years he had been waiting since Edward promised him



THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS (A.D. 1066).

the kingdom, and he swore to himself that he would make himself master of the kingdom of England by force.

2. William had been used to fighting all his life. He was strong in battle and wise in council. He called together all his vassals, and told them to arm all their men with the utmost speed, and be ready to go with him across the sea and take revenge upon Harold; and he promised to reward them for their service with all the best lands of England. So, after many months of preparation, William sailed across the sea with a great army, and landed near the town of Hastings.

3. Harold had been king a year when William landed. He had been ruling well all the time, but the people of Norway had invaded England, and he had to fight hard to deliver the land from them, and to quell the turbulence of the great earls. At last he won a great victory at Stamford Bridge, in Yorkshire, where he killed the King of Norway; and then, only three days after, this new army under William landed in England. So Harold marched to Hastings as fast as he could.

4. The next morning the famous Battle of Hastings began, and both English and Normans fought like lions. But at last an arrow pierced the eye of Harold, and he fell dead upon the field; and four Norman knights surrounded him and cut him through and through with their swords. Then the remnant of the English gave up hope and fled; and all the Normans rejoiced because they had killed Harold and conquered the English. They marched on to

London, and on Christmas Day William was crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey.

5. William the Conqueror was a very stern man, and he was very hard towards the English people; for they often rebelled against him, and tried to drive the Normans out again. He took their lands away from the English and gave them to his Norman barons and knights; and he laid waste great tracts of land, and filled them with red deer for his hunting, and punished with death every man who stole or killed the deer. He also built strong castles all over the country, and filled them with Norman soldiers, who behaved insolently to the English people. But he compelled all men to obey the laws.

12. ARCHBISHOP ANSELM (B. 1033; D. 1109).

1. When William the Conqueror died, he was succeeded by his son William, who was called Rufus, or the Red, because of his red hair. William the Red was a violent and wicked man, the worst of all the foreign kings who had ruled over England. He had no care or thought for his people, like Canute had, nor did he uphold the law like his father. He thought only of getting their money from them, and followed his own wicked will, regarding no law of God or man; he also seized for himself many of the possessions of the Church. But he fell ill, and thought he was going to die. He began to think over all his wicked

life. So he sent for Anselm, who was the best and wisest of all the clergy, made him Archbishop of Canterbury, and gave up to him the money of the Church.

2. But the king got well again, and was soon sorry that he had given up these riches of the Church, and demanded money from Anselm. Anselm sent him a rich present; but the king wanted more, and as the archbishop did not think it right to give him any more, he sent for Anselm and tried to frighten him. He spoke to him roughly and coarsely, with oaths and threats. But Anselm was not afraid of him, and he steadily refused to pay. "Treat me as a free man," he said, "and I will be your faithful servant all my life. But if you treat me as a slave you will get nothing from me."

3. Anselm was the first man who had dared to withstand William the Red, and all England was astonished at his boldness. But the king could not forgive him, and after a little while he drove him from his court. Yet Anselm had done good. Others followed his example; and from that time William the Red found it less easy to rule lawlessly, for good men all over the country spoke up for the people and for the law, and thwarted his wicked will. In the end, William was shot dead one day as he was hunting in the New Forest, but whether he was shot by accident or on purpose no one has ever known.

4. His brother Henry became king, and at once called back Anselm to England, for he wanted to consult him in a very difficult matter. King Henry wished to marry an English princess called Matilda,

who was descended from Edmund Ironside, and so belonged to the old royal house; and all his English subjects were very eager that this marriage should take place.

5. But at the time when the Normans first came to England, Matilda had been shut up in a convent for safety. The abbess, who was her own aunt, tried very hard to persuade her to become a nun. She made her wear a nun's veil, and pressed her continually to promise that she would live there till her death and never marry. But Matilda would not. However, when the king wanted to marry her, the abbess declared that Matilda was a true nun, and would not let her go out, even to please the king and all the people.

6. So King Henry asked advice of Anselm. Anselm thought it would be well for the English to have a queen of their own royal house, but still he held that a nun's promise could not be broken. So he sent for Matilda and questioned her closely; and she fell on her knees before him, and wrung her hands, and shed many tears, and said, "Indeed I never wished to be a nun. My aunt forced me with cruel words and blows to wear the veil, but I wished continually that I could be delivered from it."

7. And Anselm, being satisfied that all she said was true, though he had chosen to be a monk himself, and thought it was far the best life for those rough days, gave the princess leave to come out of the convent and marry the king. The abbess could not disobey the archbishop, and so at last Matilda



NORMAN KNIGHTS.

escaped from the convent and married Henry. She was a good wife to him, and a good queen, and all the English people loved her, and were very grateful to Anselm for having helped to give them again a queen of their own race.

13. THE WRECK OF THE WHITE SHIP (A.D. 1120).

1. Henry was a good and prudent king, and so zealous for what was fair that he was called the "Lion of Righteousness." He made many good laws, and protected the people from the tyranny of the great lords. He was a brave soldier, but he did not like warfare, and strove hard to keep peace.

2. Henry and Matilda had only one son. His name was William, and he was very dear to them, and Henry looked to him to uphold all his laws when he was himself dead. He was much beloved, too, by the English people, because he was the son of their good Matilda, and every one was pleased to think that one day he would be King of England.

3. Now when this prince was eighteen years old, King Henry took him over to Normandy, and presented him to the Norman barons as his heir; and the barons promised that when the time of his own death came they would be loyal subjects to Prince William.

4. When all this had been done, King Henry and the prince set out to return to England. There was with them a great company of lords and knights of the

court, besides all the officers and servants of their households. So the king and his household sailed in one ship, and Prince William was to follow in another, called the White Ship, with one of his sisters and his friends. But night came on before the prince's ship was ready; for the prince, and the young lords and ladies who were with him, were giving a great banquet.

5. At last the captain remembered his duty, and told the prince that they must not delay longer. So as night fell they set sail, and went out into the dark sea. Then almost immediately the ship struck against a rock, and the water rushed in, and she began to sink.

6. At once the captain ordered the sailors to let down the long-boat that hung at the ship's side; and the sailors quickly obeyed, and the boat was made ready and manned. Then the captain put the prince and his friends into it, and pushed it off, and bade the men row first to land and come back to save the rest. But Prince William heard his sister's voice calling him in accents of despair. He could not bear to save himself and let her die, so he made the boatman turn round and row back to the sinking ship.

7. But as soon as the boat came under the side of the ship, a crowd of men and women forced their way into her. The boat was filled beyond what it could bear, and it sank under the water with all the company in it. The prince went down under the sea, and his sister went down too; and so did all the boatmen, and all the gay lords and ladies who had rushed in to save

their lives. Only one person escaped to tell the awful tale.

8. When the news came to England, no man durst tell it to the king for many days. Then when the king wondered that his son did not come, they told the story to a little child ; and the child went in and told it to the king.



A NORMAN SHIP.

9. When he heard it he fell down senseless, and lay like a dead man. By-and-by his senses came back. But he grieved always for his son ; and those who knew him well used to say that from that time they never saw him smile again. For not only was Henry grieved that his son was dead, but he knew there was now no one who would carry on the government as he had done, and that as soon as he was dead different princes would begin to fight for the kingdom, as they had done at the death of Canute and of Edward.

14. KING STEPHEN AND THE EMPRESS MAUD

(A.D. 1135—1154).

1. King Henry died in Normandy fifteen years after his son's death, and before he died he made all the barons swear that they would make his daughter Maud Queen of England after his death, though no woman had reigned over the Normans before. She was called the Empress because she had been married to the Emperor of Germany, who was dead. Afterwards she married the Count of Anjou, a powerful French prince, whose territories stretched far and wide from the borders of Normandy; and King Henry meant her son to be hereafter king of all England, Normandy, and Anjou, and to be a great prince in the place of the dead prince William.

2. Now among those who swore to make Maud queen was Stephen, a grandson of William the Conqueror and Maud's own cousin. But Stephen was a Norman, and all the Normans were old enemies of the men of Anjou, or the Angevins, as they were called; and now they were determined not to be ruled by the Angevins if they could help it. So as soon as King Henry was dead, Stephen hurried across the sea to England, travelled up to London, and offered himself to the citizens as their king. Maud was away in France, and the citizens were in great anxiety, for it had happened as King Henry feared; and all over the country, directly the news came that King Henry was no longer alive to punish them, law-

less men had begun to rob the people, and the citizens did not think that a woman would be strong enough to keep order in the land. So they chose Stephen to be king, and crowned him. Stephen was a tall, handsome man, with very gracious manners, and he laughed and talked with the people as friends. This pleased them, for William the Conqueror and his sons had all been silent and haughty and terrible.

3. But after two or three years the English found that bravery and pleasant manners were not enough to make a good king in those times. The Norman barons built castles all over the land, so strong that nobody could reach them there, and thence they sallied forth continually and attacked peaceful people and robbed and murdered them.

4. The only men who were good and merciful in those days were a few of the best of the bishops and ministers of the Christian Church. They were in favour of peace and mercy and quiet government, and they gave shelter to the oppressed and starving, and always strove to restore order to the land.

5. After a time the Empress Maud came to England to claim the kingdom. She could have done little for herself, but she had a brave half-brother Robert, who fought for her and led her army. And then began a terrible war between them and their cousin Stephen, and the sufferings of the country were greater than ever. No one dared till the land any more; corn and cheese, and butter and meat, grew scarce; wretched people were dying of hunger in the fields; and all the while King Stephen and the



STEPHEN TAKEN PRISONER (A.D. 1141).

Empress Maud went on fighting for the crown year after year.

6. At last Stephen was taken prisoner, and Maud was proclaimed Queen of England; and if she had only been wise and kind she might have reigned peaceably. But as empress she had been treated as the greatest lady in the world, and she was very haughty and wilful, and behaved most violently to the citizens. The bishops saw that such conduct would not bring back peace to England, and began to think that Stephen was better after all. Then it was agreed that Stephen should come out of prison. He knew that he could hope for no peace until he had either captured the empress or driven her out of England. So he collected an army and besieged Oxford Castle, where Maud had taken refuge.

7. It was winter-time, and the ground was covered with snow, and the rivers were frozen over. So Maud dressed herself in white from head to foot, and her brother did the same, and they fled across the snow in the moonlight. Nobody saw them, and so they got safely away. For four years more the war went on, and no man would listen to the bishops when they tried to make peace. The empress ruled in the west of England and Stephen in the east, till at length the empress grew weary of the struggle and went home to Anjou. But her friends still fought on.

8. At last the bishops proposed a plan to which both sides agreed. King Stephen promised that Maud's son Henry should reign after he himself was dead, if only every one would cease fighting

and help him to bring back peace and happiness to the wretched people of England; and to this all sides consented. So the castles of the robber barons were pulled down, and there was peace again in the land.

15. THOMAS BECKET (B. 1118; D. 1170).

1. Amongst the bishops who brought about this peace, the first and foremost was Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury; and he had in his service a very clever and determined man called Thomas Becket. Becket was the son of a rich merchant of London, and he had travelled all over the world, to Paris and to Rome, to learn all that men could teach him. When the empress's son, Henry II., became king, Theobald told him that there was no man in the kingdom who could so well help him to make good laws for the people as Becket. So Henry made him Lord Chancellor, whose duty was to advise the king in all things; and they became great friends. Thomas grew rich, and lived in a palace like a prince; and when he rode to see the king, or went hunting, a great train of servants and soldiers rode behind him on horseback, all clad in glittering armour and gay clothes. And the king and the chancellor rode, and talked, and feasted, and hunted together like brothers.

2. Henry was a very strong and resolute king, and he had made up his mind that everybody in the kingdom should obey the laws he made, whether they

were barons or clergy or common people ; and he thought that there was no man who could help him so well in this as Thomas Becket. So after seven years he made him Archbishop of Canterbury, that he might be over all the clergy in England, and lead them to do as the king wished in all things.

3. Then Thomas changed his habits. He gave up hunting and hawking and gaming ; he renounced all rich food, and lived almost wholly on dry bread and bitter herbs. He wore rough sackcloth next to his skin, and every day he washed the feet of thirteen beggars who received alms of him. He lived no longer like a prince, but like an austere monk. King Henry ceased to find him a merry and pleasant companion, and wished that he had never made him archbishop.

4. But this was not the worst. The archbishop did not agree with the king in some of the new laws he made about the clergy, and resisted him with all his power.

5. Then, when Henry found that the archbishop would no longer help him in his plans for the government of the kingdom, he grew very angry, and forgot his ancient friendship, and deprived Becket of all his riches. So Becket left England, and hastened to France. There he met the Pope, and asked his help against Henry, which made Henry more angry still ; and the quarrel between them went on for six years, and all the time Becket lived a very holy life himself, so that all men thought it noble of him to give up all his wealth and power rather than yield to the king.

6. At length, however, Henry and Becket met to-

gether, and they made peace; and Becket agreed to go back to England, and Henry gave him leave, hoping that thenceforth Becket would submit to the king's laws, and that all would be well.

7. But as soon as Becket was back at Canterbury he began to punish the bishops who had taken part with the king. When Henry heard this, he perceived that there would be no peace with Becket after all, but that he still meant to resist the laws which the king thought best for the kingdom. The king was extremely angry, and repented of having allowed Becket to return to England.

8. And whilst the king was in his rage and anger, an enemy of the archbishop's exclaimed, "You will have no peace whilst Thomas lives." And the king answered in haste and fury, "Is there not one among all my subjects who will rid me of this meddling priest?"

9. There were four knights standing by, and they thought to themselves, "If we slay Becket, we shall win the king's favour for ever." Without telling any one, they set off and travelled to Canterbury, where they found Becket praying in the cathedral.

10. They seized him, and began to drag him out. Becket, who had been a strong soldier himself once, dashed one of them to the ground; and then all four fell upon him, and struck him down on the steps of the altar, and slew him upon the floor of the cathedral. Then they fled from the place.

11. When Henry heard of this brutal murder he was filled with remorse. He shut himself up in his



room and refused to see any one. For three days he would neither eat nor drink. But in time he came home to England, and walked barefoot to Canterbury, and knelt upon the spot where the archbishop was killed, weeping and confessing his sins ; and afterwards it became the custom for people to make pilgrimages from all parts of England to the spot where Thomas Becket of Canterbury was murdered.

16. THE GREAT KING HENRY II. (A. 1154—1189).

1. Henry II. grew to be a very great king. Never before had a king of the English reigned over so vast an empire as his, and his dominions were far greater even than Canute's, who ruled over England, Denmark, and Norway. He was the first King of England who was obeyed throughout the British Isles, for he conquered the Kings of Wales and Ireland and Scotland. And he was lord of half France besides.

2. Men wanted to make him King of Jerusalem also, that he might defend the Christians of Palestine, and the places where Jesus Christ was born and where he died. But he was a prudent king. He gathered his councillors together, and asked them whether it was not wiser to remain at home, and govern carefully the great empire which God had already committed to his charge ; and they counselled him to stay. So Henry thought no more of the kingdom of Jerusalem.

3. However, this great king was a very unhappy man, for his wife Eleanor was a bad woman who did not love him, and his sons grew up to be reckless and lawless men, who fought with their father and amongst each other, and were brutal and tyrannical to those under them ; so that, while all the world envied him as a great and victorious prince, he never was a happy man all his days.

4. Henry had always been very fond of his sons, and very proud of them, for they were splendid and strong, and dashing young soldiers, renowned for their bravery and skill. And Henry tried hard to leave them powerful and glorious when he should die.

5. But while Henry was planning how he might leave a kingdom for each of his sons, Eleanor stirred them up to wait no longer, but to demand that each should have his portion at once ; and when the king refused, Eleanor and the princes fled from his court, and joined with the king's greatest enemies, the sovereigns of France and Scotland and Flanders, and with all the traitors in the kingdom, in a plot to dethrone him, and to distribute his dominions amongst themselves.

6. Henry grew very sad and distressed ; but John, his youngest son, had not deserted him with the rest, and for that the king loved John more than ever. Then there came a terrible war. On every side the king's enemies came on against him. But Henry was a very brave and skilful general. He gathered his armies, and dashed from place to place so quickly wherever the danger was greatest, that his

enemies marvelled and said, "The King of England is like a bird in swiftmess." Often the struggle seemed hopeless, for he had to fight with all his enemies



HENRY II.

at once, and with his own sons, and with all the rebels in his kingdoms; but the English people fought well for their king, and at length he prevailed over them all. He forgave his sons, and he even gave to each of them two castles and great revenues, so

that they might live as princes. But he took Queen Eleanor and cast her into prison, and kept her there as long as he lived.

7. Then King Henry gave all his thoughts to improve the government and the laws of England, so that every man might have justice, and might live in peace, fearing no foe either at home or abroad. But before long his sons began to fight amongst themselves; and when Henry had compelled them to desist, they turned against him, and tried again and again to kill him, and even John rebelled. Henry was an old man now. He could scarcely fight, and he was alone, without wife or children. When he knew that John had turned traitor, his heart was broken, and he died.

8. So the great King Henry's troubles ended. His dominion soon broke up. But the good laws he had made for England continued, and it was many years before the English knew again such peace and quietness and security as Henry had given them.

17. RICHARD OF THE LION-HEART (B. 1189—1199).

1. The rebel Prince Richard became king when Henry died; but when he saw his father lying dead he was filled with remorse, and he knelt down by the dead body, weeping bitterly and praying for forgiveness.

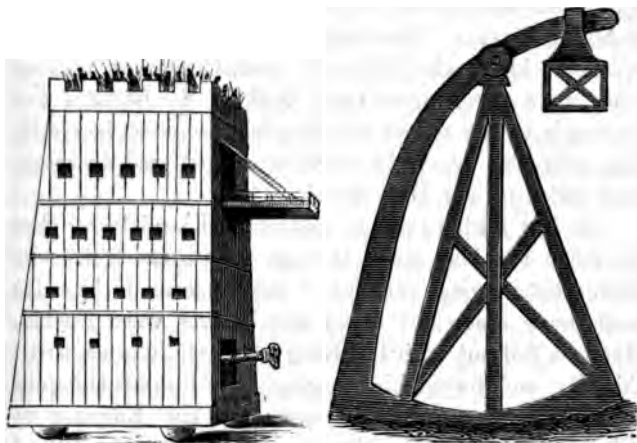
2. Richard cared too much about fighting to be a good king, but he was a brave soldier, and his great

wish was to go and fight in the Holy Land, and win back the city where Jesus Christ had preached and died. For the Holy Land had fallen into the hands of a people called the Saracens, who were not Christians, and were often cruel to the people who came to Jerusalem to worship there. Fierce wars had been going on between the Christians and the Saracens for a hundred years. The wars were called Crusades, and all the soldiers who fought in them Crusaders, because they wore a cross upon their cloaks. So Richard got as much money out of the English people as he could, and with this money he fitted out a fleet and an army, and sailed for the Holy Land.

3. But Richard was so reckless and headstrong that he came to blows upon the way with many folks who were just as great enemies of the Saracens as he was; and much time and many men's lives were wasted. First he fell out with the King of Sicily, and captured his city, and forced him to give up to him all the gold in his treasury; then he overcame the Emperor of Cyprus, and took his kingdom from him, and bound him in chains of silver and cast him into prison; so that it was almost a year before he got to the Holy Land. The King of France and the Emperor of Germany had arrived already. But the Sultan, or king, of the Saracens, Saladin, was a great general, and his soldiers were very brave; and the Germans and the French had been fighting hard, yet could not get the better of them. When King Richard arrived they rejoiced exceedingly; for his courage was so great that men said he must have the heart of a lion

in him, and called him therefore Richard Lion-Heart.

4. Now the Mahometans had taken from the Christians a very important city called Acre, and the Crusaders had been trying all this time to win it back. They had attacked it again and again, and many



BATTERING-RAM AND MACHINE FOR HURLING STONES, USED AT
THE SIEGE OF ACRE.

soldiers had been killed, and still they could not take the city of Acre. But Richard devised a wonderful machine. It was like a little fortress or tower of wood, and it was mounted upon wheels so that it could be pushed where it was wanted; and inside was machinery which hurled huge stones against the walls of the city. With this Richard broke down the walls of the town, and then, with all his host and the other princes

and their hosts following, King Richard entered the town in triumph. But the other princes were envious of Richard's glory, and Richard became so proud and overbearing that they all grew to hate him, and at last they went home, leaving Richard to fight alone with Saladin.

5. Richard was determined to get back Jerusalem also from the Saracens before he went home again, and he fought many fierce battles with the Sultan. But Saladin was as brave and skilful in battle as Richard himself, and Richard could not conquer him. Yet they grew to honour and respect each other for their bravery; and when Richard fell ill of a fever, Saladin sent him fruits and cooling drinks to comfort him. At last Saladin said that though he would never give up Jerusalem to Richard, yet that King Richard, and his knights, and every Christian pilgrim might go there whenever they pleased, and that they should be welcomed and protected there as the Sultan's friends. So Richard set out for England.

6. It was high time; for the King of France, and many other enemies whom he had offended by his pride and violence, were plotting against him, and his brother John, who had grown up to be a mean, treacherous, and evil man, had joined with them to rob the king of his dominions. But they were all terribly afraid of Richard. They knew that if he once got safe back he would punish them as they deserved, so they lay in wait for him to catch him on his way home.

7. The fine army with which Richard had set out two years before was all broken up. Many of his men

had been slain in battle; many had died of the heat and the fevers of the Holy Land; others had come home by different ways; and the king found himself at last with but twenty followers left to defend him from all his foes. So he cast off his royal robes and his armour, and called himself Hugh the Merchant; and he and his followers journeyed with their long hair uncut, and their beards unshaven, that every one might think them only a poor band of pilgrims on their way home from the Holy Land.

8. But when they were still far from home a storm arose, and their ship was wrecked in the Adriatic Sea. Richard, fearing he would be taken prisoner, sent his page to the lord of that land with a precious ruby, begging him to let a poor band of pilgrims pass. But when the lord saw the ruby, he said, "This is the present of a prince. It is King Richard." So he told the page to invite his master to come to him.

9. Then Richard, knowing he was discovered, bought swift horses, and fled as fast as he could; but all his companions were taken except one knight and a page. For three days and nights they rode without speaking to a soul, till they came to a little town near Vienna. There Richard stopped, for he fell so ill that he could go no farther; and as they had nothing to eat, the boy went to buy food in the market. But the men in the market took him and tortured him till he confessed where Richard was hidden. The king was too ill to fight any more, and so he was taken prisoner and sent off secretly to a castle, where he was

chained, and guarded by soldiers with naked swords, who stood over him night and day.

10. For a long time no one knew where he was. But there was a minstrel, called Blondel, who had served Richard faithfully, and loved him, and he set out to find the king. He wandered far and wide in search of his prison, for as a minstrel he was welcome at every castle, and he sang everywhere a song which Richard knew. At length one day he came beneath the walls of Richard's prison. The king heard his song, and Blondel heard him singing it back to him out of a little window high up in the tower. So Blondel hastened to England, and told the people that he had found the king, and they collected a great sum of money and ransomed him. And so the king came home and overthrew all his enemies.

11. But one day, hearing that twelve golden images of knights sitting round a golden table had been discovered in a certain French castle, he besieged the castle. But after many weeks he was struck by an arrow from a Frenchman's bow, and he was carried to his tent mortally wounded. While he lay dying his soldiers took the castle. And then King Richard ordered the man who had shot him to be brought to his bedside to receive sentence of death. "What harm have I ever done thee," he asked, "that thou shouldst take my life." "Sire," replied the soldier, "by your hand fell my father and my two brothers." "That is enough," said Richard; "I forgive thee." Then he forgave the King of France and his brother John, and so he died.



DEATH OF RICHARD I. (A.D. 1199).

18. JOHN, THE TRAITOR-KING (R. 1199—1216).

1. King Richard's lawful heir was his nephew Arthur; but Prince John had long determined to be king. All the time that Richard was fighting in the Holy Land, John was plotting against him with the King of France. When Richard was in prison, he offered to pay a very large sum of money each month so long as the king was kept in captivity; and now, directly he heard that King Richard was dead, John seized upon Arthur's territories in France, and then hastened to England and persuaded the English to crown him king.

2. Not long after, King John took Arthur prisoner, with all his bravest supporters. He fastened heavy chains upon them, and shut them up in his different castles. Many were starved to death in their dungeons, and Prince Arthur himself was never seen again. Some say that King John burnt out his nephew's eyes with a red-hot iron, and others that he stabbed him in the night and threw the body over into a river. All men were certain that by some foul means John had murdered Arthur, so that he might keep his dominions; and they hated the king for it and feared him.

3. So the people who lived in the French dominions which should have been Arthur's, rose against King John, and helped the King of France to drive him out. No man would fight for a traitor and a murderer like John. The great realm of his father Henry was

broken to pieces, and John lost all his lands outside England.

4. At first the English had not known how bad a man they had accepted as their king; for he was full of deceit, and deceived them with his free, gay manners, as he had deceived his father. But John grew more and more lawless. He oppressed his subjects; he broke the laws; his vices and his cruelties became worse and worse; and at last the English people also made up their minds that if he would not mend his ways, he should rule over them no longer.

5. Before long John had a great quarrel with the Church and the Pope as to who should be Archbishop of Canterbury; and as the king would not yield, the Pope forbade all Christian men to hold communion with the king, or to serve him.

6. Then King John grew yet more angry with the Pope, and his heart grew harder than ever, and he took away the lands and the money of the priests and monks.

7. At last the Pope declared that John was deposed from his throne, and he summoned the King of France to conquer England, as he had conquered all the rest of John's dominions. Now, though the English had begun to hate John for his evil deeds, and all the trouble he had brought upon them, they were not going to allow the Pope to settle whether he should or should not be King of England. Still, John knew he deserved no help from them, and he began to fear that the French king would come and take away his kingdom and his life. So John thought it wisest to make friends with the Pope.



DEATH OF PRINCE ARTHUR.

He sent for the Pope's legate, or ambassador, and took off his crown and gave it into his hands, and threw himself down at the legate's feet, and promised to acknowledge the Pope as his lord, and to obey him in all things.

8. John thought all his troubles were over ; but he was greatly mistaken. The barons of England were very angry with him for what he had done. They felt it a disgrace that the King of England should be called the vassal of the Pope ; and they banded themselves together against the king to compel him to govern according to the ancient laws of England. So they wrote some of these laws out afresh, and added more laws to them which they thought good. And these were called the Great Charter. But King John was as obstinate with the barons as he had been with the Pope, and would not sign the Charter. So the barons gathered their followers, all wearing a white cross, to show that they were fighting in a holy cause, and they declared they would obey John no longer. Then the king grew frightened once more, and called the barons to him and signed the Great Charter in a field called Runnymede, near Windsor.

9. But when he came to himself he was very wroth, and began to plan how he might break his word with the barons ; and he hired foreign soldiers to come over and force the English to submit to him.

10. Then the barons saw that they must fight John to the death. They armed all who would join them, and they sent word to the French king that if his son Louis would come to England with his army, and

would promise to govern lawfully, they would take him for their king instead of the traitor John.

11. So Louis came, and there was a terrible war in the land. John ravaged and burnt the land as if he had been one of the old Danes come again, and slew and tortured his own people. At last, one day, as the king was crossing the Wash with all his army, the tide rose suddenly, and all the king's treasure, and the provisions for his army, were swept away into the sea. The king himself escaped, but the fatigue and the vexation threw him into a fever, and he died in agony.

12. All England rejoiced at the news. Men thought no more of asking a king from France to reign over them, but crowned John's little son Henry, hoping they would find in him as good a king as his grandfather, after whom he was called. And they chose some of the wisest men in the kingdom to teach him how to govern rightly, and to obey the Great Charter, by which they had resolved that England should henceforth be governed.

19. SIMON DE MONTFORT (B. 1200; D. 1265).

1. So long as Henry III. followed the counsel of the Wise Men of the kingdom, and ruled according to the Great Charter, all went well, but when he grew to be a man he would listen to them no more. He invited his French relations over to England, and they all lived together in constant feasting and splen-

dour; and they built magnificent palaces and churches, and passed their time in luxury amidst songs and music. Henry was not a wicked man, like his father had been, but he was a bad king, for he cared nothing about the happiness of his people. He spent so much money upon all this magnificence, and gave so much to his French friends, that he was always in debt; and then they persuaded him to pay no more attention to the Charter, which he had promised to obey, but to govern the land as he pleased, and to rob his subjects of their money.

2. At last the clergy, and the barons, and the people resolved to endure this no longer. There was a great lord called Simon de Montfort. He was tall and handsome: haughty and wrathful if he was displeased, but kind and gracious to those whom he loved. He was so fair and just in all his dealings that he was called "Sir Simon the Righteous." He came to King Henry's court, and the king received him graciously and granted all that he asked. He made him Earl of Leicester, and before long gave him his sister Eleanor in marriage, and with her a splendid dowry and fine lands, and the beautiful castle of Kenilworth to live in; and Simon became godfather to Henry's eldest son, Prince Edward.

3. But suddenly the king's mind changed towards him, either because the king's favourites grew jealous of Simon and told stories against him to the king, or because Henry himself saw that Simon would not support him in wrong-doing, like the rest of the courtiers. So Simon and his wife departed to France.

Yet when war broke out between the Kings of England and France, Simon fought for England.

4. But the time came when the English barons and clergy resolved that they would bear King Henry's misgovernment no longer, and then Earl Simon went over to live in England again, and became their leader, although he had married the king's sister.

5. The king came to meet the barons in Westminster Hall, and Simon and all the rest appeared in armour, with their swords by their sides. They told the king that they could endure his extravagance and misgovernment no more, and that he must give up his power, as King John had promised to do, to a council. And Henry yielded.

6. However, the country was in so wretched a condition that even Simon could not cure all its evils in a day, and many grew discontented, so that King Henry was encouraged to undertake the government himself again. At last Simon saw that there was no remedy but to compel Henry to submit. He gathered his followers, and they all wore white crosses on their coats, like the army which had fought for the Great Charter against King John. A great battle was fought at Lewes, in Sussex, in which Simon's army defeated the king's army, and Simon took his godson, Prince Edward, prisoner. So the king was obliged to make a treaty with the barons, and give up his power to them; and Simon governed the kingdom in the king's name, and kept the king under his control.

7. For a time all went well, for Simon obeyed the

Great Charter and the laws of the land, and called Parliament together to advise him in the government. At last, however, Prince Edward made his escape from his imprisonment. One day, while he was riding with the officers who guarded him, he proposed a race with the officers, and they all set off galloping. Prince Edward's horse beat them all. He was soon out of sight, and never stopped till he had joined his friends.

8. Then Edward collected an army and marched against Earl Simon at Evesham, in Worcestershire, and Simon's army was defeated, and he himself was killed in the battle. But his work was not forgotten. Prince Edward had learnt from his godfather both how to rule well and how to fight well, and though he fought against Simon for his father's sake, yet he never forgot his example. When he came to be king himself, he always governed by the advice of Parliament, as Earl Simon had begun to do; and for long after the people thought Simon a saint and a martyr, and came from far to worship at his tomb.

20. EDWARD I. (R. 1270—1307).

1. Prince Edward was a very tall man, and because of his long legs people called him Edward Longshanks. He was a strong, restless prince, a great rider, and a skilful soldier. He was accustomed to warfare from his youth, and all his days until his death he was fighting with the kingdoms around.

2. As soon as the war with Simon was over, Prince Edward set out, with his wife Eleanor and with many of the great barons, to fight in the Crusade in Palestine. He came to Nazareth, where Jesus Christ lived in His youth, but he could not take Jerusalem. One day, while Edward lay resting in the noontide heat, there came a dark stranger in a flowing robe with a letter to his tent, and asked to see the prince. Edward bade him enter; and then, as he took the letter, the stranger drew a dagger from beneath his robe, and sprang upon the prince and stabbed him. Edward leaped from his couch and slew the assassin on the spot. But the dagger had been poisoned, and the prince thought that he would die in a few hours. Then Eleanor sucked the wound with her lips until all the poison was drawn out, though she knew not whether it would kill her instead; however, Prince Edward recovered, and Eleanor was none the worse.

3. Soon afterwards they set off home, and on the way a messenger met them to tell Edward that King Henry was dead, and that all the barons of England were waiting for him to come and reign over them. So he went on to England, and when he was crowned there were great feastings and rejoicings, for he was a very just and noble prince.

4. The first thing Edward did was to make war upon the people of Wales, the descendants of the Britons who held on amongst the mountains when the English conquered the country in the old times. They spoke the old British language, and were ruled by British princes. Many kings of England had tried to

conquer Wales, but they could not, and thousands had been slain upon either side in the war.

5. There was in the time of Edward a brave and noble Welsh prince called Llewelyn, and the Welsh all loved him greatly. He had already led them many times to battle and brought them home victorious, and they almost worshipped him for his valour. Their poets, or bards as they called them, made songs about Prince Llewelyn and the other Welsh heroes, and the brave deeds they had done in warfare with the English; and the people sang these songs to their harps, and the sound of them stirred up their hearts to resist the English.

6. But at last they were defeated in battle, and Prince Llewelyn was killed. King Edward commanded his soldiers to cut off the head of the dead prince, and he sent it to London, so that the citizens might see that he had conquered his enemy. After this the Welsh people submitted to the English, and Edward was proclaimed King both of England and Wales.

7. He made good laws for the Welsh, but for a long time they hated their conqueror. However, Queen Eleanor had a little son, who was born at Carnarvon, in Wales; and when the Welsh had submitted to the king, Edward made them a most gracious speech, and said that he was going to present them with a prince who was born in their own country and could not speak a word of any other language; who had never offended them, or indeed done anything that was wrong or cruel; and that this prince should be called the Prince of Wales. The people wondered very much who this

prince could be ; but soon the king went away and came back carrying his baby-son in his arms. The title of Prince of Wales was given to him, and ever since then it has been borne by the eldest son of the King or Queen of England.

8. Seven years after, the good Queen Eleanor died, and King Edward mourned for her very deeply. Her death happened at Harley, in Nottinghamshire ; but Edward wished her to be buried amongst the kings and queens at Westminster Abbey. So her body was carried to London, and at the twelve places on the road where the bearers rested and set down the coffin Edward afterwards built twelve beautiful carved crosses. There is only one of them left standing now, and that is at Waltham. There used to be one at Charing Cross, in London, but it fell into ruins and was taken away ; and not long ago a new cross was built there in imitation of the old one that Edward put up to the memory of Eleanor.

21. SIR WILLIAM WALLACE.

1. When Edward I. had been King of England for about thirty years, the King of Scotland died, and left no son to reign after him—only his grandchild, a young and delicate girl, who was away in Norway, and was quite unfit to govern such a barbarous people as the Scots were in those days.

2. Edward of England had just conquered Wales,

and he was wishing to make himself master of Scotland also. So he sent a message to the Scots, asking them to give their queen in marriage to his son Edward, who had been made Prince of Wales. The Scots consented, but the Queen of Scotland died upon the voyage from Norway, and the throne was empty.

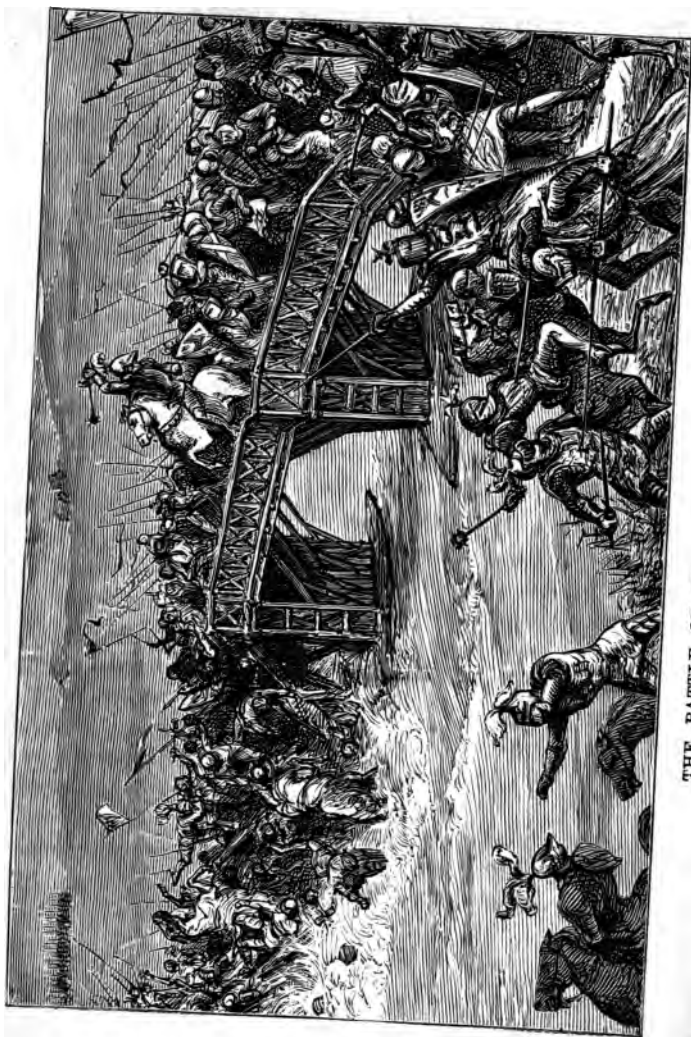
3. A great many men came forward to claim it, and the Scots resolved to ask King Edward of England to decide between them.

4. Then Edward decided that a nobleman named John Baliol had the best claim to be king, and accordingly he was crowned. After his coronation, he knelt at the feet of Edward and gave the crown into his hands, and then received it back from him, and declared himself the humble vassal of the King of England.

5. Not long after, Edward sent a message to the Scots commanding them to pay him tribute money, and to do other things to show that they thought him their lord. The Scots haughtily refused to pay; and then Edward marched across the Tweed with an army, and forced them to obey him. And he filled all the Scotch towns and castles with English soldiers.

6. William Wallace was only a boy while all these things were happening; but he was a very quick boy, with a brave heart and an independent spirit, and he hated the English soldiers who held the land in subjection.

7. One day he slew an English soldier. The English governor published a proclamation, offering a reward to any one who would kill Wallace; so Wallace fled, and he roamed about Scotland stirring



THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE (A.D. 1297)

up his countrymen to rise in arms against the English, and drive them out of the country.

8. At last he got together an army, and met the army of Edward in battle; and at Stirling Bridge Wallace and his Scots defeated the English with great slaughter. It was a great victory, and the fame of it spread quickly over England and Scotland; and Wallace became the darling hero of the whole Scottish nation. Men joined his army in crowds, and he grew so bold that he even dared to invade England. But Edward gathered his armies, and fell upon Wallace and the Scots, and slew them. Wallace fled away and hid himself; but the English found him, and carried him away to London, to be tried as a traitor.

9. Then, when Wallace was brought before the English judge, he answered and said, "I am no traitor to King Edward, for I have never been his subject." Then they accused him of having killed many English soldiers; and to that Wallace answered boldly, "It is true; I would I had killed more." Then the English judges, seeing how bitter an enemy he was to King Edward, condemned him to death.

10. His head was cut off, and his dead body was divided into four quarters, and the four pieces were stuck on iron spikes on London Bridge, so that all who passed by might see them, and take warning not to rebel against King Edward.

22. ROBERT BRUCE (A.D. 1274—1329).

1. Among the Scots who fought on the side of Wallace, one of the bravest was Robert Bruce; but shortly before Wallace died he had given up all hope of bringing peace and happiness to Scotland by resisting the English, and he had entered the army of the English king.

2. When he heard the news of the death of Wallace, Robert Bruce thought of his old leader dying like a traitor, and of his four limbs spiked on London Bridge for all the English people to triumph over; and his heart was full of rage and shame. So he vowed to spend the rest of his life in driving the English out of Scotland.

3. But Bruce had a very violent and impatient temper, which brought great trouble upon himself and others. There was a brave soldier called John Comyn, whom many of the Scots looked to as their leader; and for some time the Scotch patriots were divided into two parties, one of which followed Bruce and the other Comyn.

4. Robert Bruce thought that while the Scots were divided among themselves they would never deliver their country from the English; so he invited Comyn to meet him in a church at Dumfries, that they might become friends instead of rivals. But the more they talked together, the more they quarrelled; and at last Robert Bruce lost his temper, and struck John Comyn a blow that laid him dead and bleeding on the ground.

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but he was still determined to hold Scotland; so once more he raised a great army, and prepared to march north. But just as he came to the borders of Scotland he fell sick and died, and the kingdom of England passed to his son Edward, the Prince of Wales.

9. However, Edward II. was like his father in nothing but his name. He was neither a great ruler nor a great soldier, nor would his subjects fight for him as they had fought for his father. So Bruce grew stronger and stronger, and at last he overthrew the English, and defeated them in the famous battle of Bannockburn. Thus he delivered his country, and reigned over the Scots for many years.

23. THE SIEGE OF CALAIS (A.D. 1346-7).

1. The eldest son of Edward II. was called Edward after his father and his grandfather, and he is known in history as Edward III. During his reign the King of France died, leaving no son to succeed him; and King Edward claimed the kingdom because he was the dead king's nephew. But the French chose another king called Philip to rule over them; so Edward resolved to cross the Channel and conquer the kingdom for himself.

2. All his reign, and many years after, were spent in this unjust war, which is called the Hundred Years' War. But though the war itself was unjust, the English soldiers fought bravely at the command of

the king ; and our knights, and our archers with their bows of yew, won many victories over the French. The most famous of these victories were those of Crecy and Poitiers and Agincourt.

3. There was a strong town on the coast of France, just opposite to Dover on the coast of England, called Calais, which Edward wanted to conquer, so that his armies might have a safe landing-place on French ground, and his ships a port to harbour in. But the walls of Calais were so high and strong that no soldiers could break through them. So he surrounded the town with his soldiers, that the people might not come in or out to get food, and then waited for week after week, and month after month, hoping that hunger would compel the French soldiers inside to surrender the town. And the English attacked the walls again and again ; but though the brave garrison were well-nigh starving, they always beat the English back.

4. At last all the food in the town was gone. So the governor came out upon the walls and waved a white flag, as a sign that he wished to speak ; upon which, Edward sent a knight forward to hear what he had to say.

5. " Brave knight," said the governor, " it is almost a year since you began to besiege us, and we have endeavoured to do our duty against you. But we are dying of hunger, and we have no hope of help from without. I am willing therefore to give up the town to you ; and I only ask you to spare the lives of the brave men who have endured so much with me."

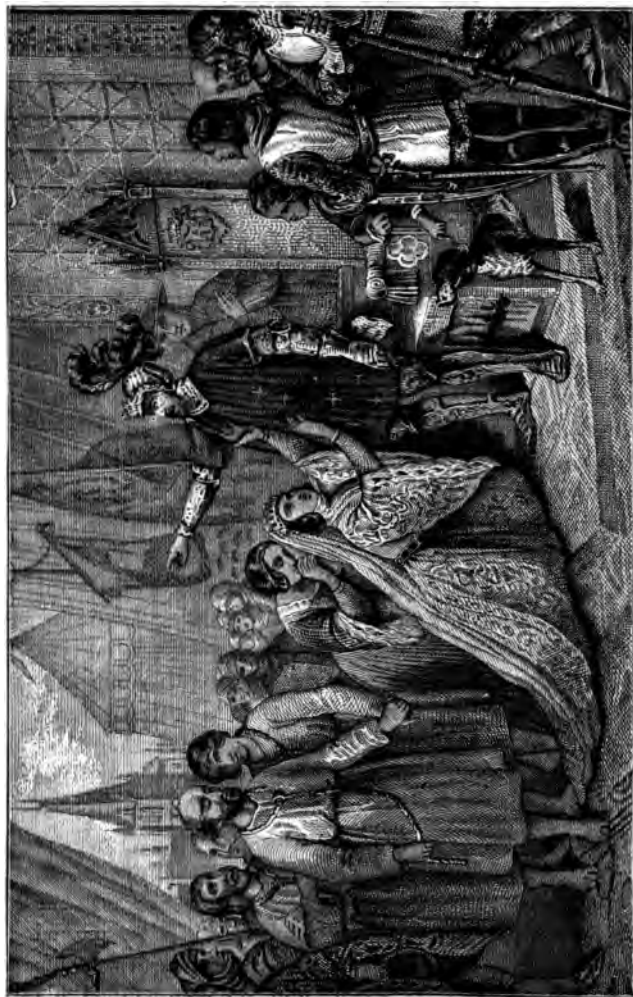
6. But King Edward was so wroth with the men of

Calais for their obstinacy that he was determined to put every one of them to death. However, he relented in some measure, and declared that if six of the chief citizens would come to him barefoot with halters round their necks, bringing the keys of the city, and willing to die whatever death he chose, he would slay them and spare the rest.

7. Then the governor returned into the town, and commanded the great bell to ring, that the citizens might gather together to hear the word of the king; and when they heard it they all began to weep. But soon the wealthiest burgher of the town, Master Eustace de St. Pierre, stood up and said—“My masters, it were great pity that all this company should die by famine or the sword, and great praise would he win who should save them. Therefore I am ready to be the first of the six who go barefoot to King Edward; and of my own will I will put a halter round my neck, and strip myself to my shirt, and yield me to his mercy.”

8. And as soon as he had spoken, another one said he would be the second; and then a third offered himself, and a fourth, and a fifth, and a sixth. And all the rest crowded round the six who were willing to die for them, and thanked them, and sent them forth with tears and great praises.

9. And at the sight of these six brave men, willing to die for their town, the hearts of all the lords and ladies present were touched, and they prayed King Edward to spare them. But King Edward's heart was set against them, and he commanded his



QUEEN PHILIPPA INTERCEDING FOR THE BURGHERS OF CALAIS (A.D. 1347).

men-at-arms to cut off their heads. Then Queen Philippa, his wife, threw herself at his feet, and said, "Oh, gentle sire, since I came over from England I have asked nothing of you, either for myself or for my children. But now I pray and beseech you, for the love of Christ, spare these men's lives and let them go free."

10. But Edward sat silent, and would not change his word; and the queen stood before him, wringing her hands and weeping bitterly. And her great earnestness softened his heart, and he said at length, "Lady, I wish you had been elsewhere; but since you pray so tenderly I cannot say you nay. And so against my will I give you these men. Take them and set them free."

11. Then the halters were taken off their necks, and the queen gave them a great feast in her tent, and there was no blood shed in Calais that day. But the French governor, and all the men who had borne the siege with him, marched out of the town, and King Edward set a garrison of his own soldiers in their place; thus Calais became an English city, and remained so for two hundred years.

24. THE BLACK PRINCE (B. 1330; D. 1376).

1. King Edward III. and Queen Philippa had many sons and daughters. The two most famous were Edward, Prince of Wales, who was called the Black Prince, because he wore a suit of black armour, and John, Duke of Lancaster, who was called John of Gaunt, because he was born at the town of Ghent, or Gaunt, in Flanders.

2. In King Edward's war with France the English and the French fought a terrible battle at a place called Crecy; and King Edward set the Black Prince in command of the English army, though he was then only fourteen. But after the fighting had been going on for some hours, a knight who was with the prince began to think that he would not be able to hold out much longer without new help; and he rode up to the king and begged him to come down and succour him with fresh troops. "Is my son dead or wounded?" asked the king. "He is neither," replied the knight, "but he is fighting against great numbers; and I fear he will not be able to hold out much longer." "Go back to him," answered the king, "and tell him that I desire that the glory of this day shall be his, and that therefore I am determined not to come down and take it away from him."

3. The knight rode back to the prince, and told him what the king had said; and he was so proud of the trust his father put in him that he fought even more gallantly than before, and by sunset he had put the

whole French army to flight. Then the king embraced him, and praised him for his skill and courage.

4. Ten years later the Black Prince won another great victory over the French at Poitiers, in the west of France. The French king was taken prisoner in the battle, and when the fighting was over he was led to the tent of the prince, to be dealt with according to his pleasure. And then Prince Edward showed that he could be courteous as well as brave. He received the king with respect, and made him sit down to dinner in his tent, while he himself waited upon him humbly. And afterwards, when he returned to England bringing his prisoner of war with him, he made the captive king ride into London on a splendid white horse, while he himself rode on a pony by his side.

5. But at last the prince fell ill, and could fight no longer. In the last battle in which he took part he was carried to the field in a litter, instead of riding on his war-horse; and after this he made peace, and came home to England.

6. Now at this time there was a great deal of trouble and misgovernment in the country; for King Edward was growing old, and his mind was failing. The Black Prince immediately took part with the people, and they hoped that with his help they should get justice; but, to their grief and disappointment, he died very soon, and there was mourning throughout all England. Richard, the son of the Black Prince, who was now heir to the throne, was only a little boy of ten years old. There was no one left to take the part of the people, and they foresaw that great troubles were coming upon them.

7. King Edward died in the following year, and then the little son of the Black Prince became king, and was called King Richard II.

25. RICHARD II. (A. 1377—1400).

1. Soon after Edward's death the Government wanted money to pay for the French wars, and Parliament decided to get it by making every man and woman throughout the country pay a tax. This tax was to be the same for everybody: poor people were to pay what was a great deal to them, and rich people what they would not miss at all.

2. There was a labouring man in Kent named Wat Tyler, and when the tax-gatherer came to his house to ask for the money he refused to give it him. The tax-gatherer grew angry, and was rude to Tyler's daughter; and then Tyler turned fiercely upon him, and struck him a blow that killed him. A crowd gathered round Tyler's house. Tyler told what had happened, and called upon all the people to take part with him. "Let us march to London," he said, "and force the Parliament to take off this tax."

3. The labourers from all the country round joined him. They formed themselves into an army of 100,000 men, and, choosing Wat Tyler for their leader, marched to London to demand justice of the Parliament and the king.

4. Now King Richard was very young, and he was

full of generous feeling and of courage ; but he had no power in the country. His uncle, John of Gaunt, ruled for him, and his will counted for nothing.

5. Richard was sorry for the people, and he rode out to meet them, in company with the Mayor of London, to ask them what they wanted. But Wat Tyler behaved so fiercely that the mayor stabbed him dead with a dagger.

6. Then the whole crowd of men who were following him set up a furious cry of revenge. But the young king rode forward, and cried out loudly, "What is it you need?" "Our captain," they cried; "our captain, who has been murdered." "Truly," answered the king. "I am your king; I will be your captain."

7. Then the people threw their caps in the air, and shouted for King Richard. But he told them to go home quietly, and trust to him to get their rights for them. But alas! he had not power to do what he had promised. It was only the Parliament who could change the law, and the men of that Parliament had set their hearts against the people. So no good came of the king's promises, and the people never trusted him again.

8. After many years of bad government the king was taken prisoner by his cousin, Henry of Lancaster, whom the English made king in Richard's stead. He was called King Henry IV.

9. King Richard was shut up in a castle, where after a few months he died miserably. Some said that his gaolers starved him to death, and others that he was murdered by the guards who kept watch over him.

10. These events brought in a new time in English history. Many Englishmen thought that Henry and his descendants had no right to the throne; and so whoever was discontented took up arms to dethrone them. For the next hundred years civil wars grew more and more frequent, till people thought no more of improving the laws or of fighting the French, but fought continually against each other to set up one king and pull down another.

26. HENRY THE FIFTH (A. 1415—1422).

1. King Henry's eldest son was called Henry, like himself, and this son was a great trouble to the king. He was a wild and reckless young man, and he passed his time with young scapegraces who had quarrelled with their fathers and their respectable friends; they rioted about the streets, and squandered their money, and robbed peaceful citizens. Prince Henry would never take any share of their booty himself, but he was as wild as any of them, and was known to every one as "Madcap Harry." Yet there was much about him to win the love of worthier people. He was brave and generous, and sensible in many things. His father knew all his good qualities as well as his bad ones, and grieved bitterly to see him wasting his life in bad company.

2. One day a servant of Prince Henry was brought up to be tried for one of these wild acts, and Prince

Henry, hearing of it, rushed into the court and demanded that the judge should set the man free. The judge answered that the man had broken the law, and must be punished for it just like any other man. The prince drew his sword and threatened to strike the judge; but the judge said that the law must be above every one, and he commanded his officers to seize the prince and take him away to prison.

3. Then the prince had the good sense to see that the judge was right. He quietly put up his sword, and allowed the officers to lead him away. But King Henry was greatly pleased, and exclaimed, "Happy the king who has a judge who knows how to administer the law, and happy the father whose son knows how to submit to it." And soon after the king died, and Madcap Harry became king.

4. From that moment he entirely changed his way of life. He gave up all his foolish pleasures, and devoted himself seriously and industriously to the business of his kingdom. He sent for all the wild comrades with whom he had lived formerly, and told them that henceforth he meant to commit no more follies, but to live as became a sensible man and a king, and he advised them also to live rightly. Then he sent for all the wise men who had been his father's councillors while he lived, and thanked them for the good advice they had often given him, and assured them that though he had not followed it before, he meant to follow it thenceforth.

5. Now the King of France was mad, and Henry determined that he would conquer France. For he

thought, as many other people in England did, that France belonged of right to the English kings. Besides, he hoped that if the English barons were fighting there, an end would come to the rebellions and civil wars which now were always breaking out in England. So he demanded that all the provinces which had belonged to Henry the Second should be given up to him. The French refused. Then Henry invaded the land with a great army of the English, and won a glorious victory at Agincourt.

6. At length the English entered Paris, and the poor French king gave Henry all that he desired. It was settled that Henry should marry the king's daughter Catherine, and that when the old king should come to die, Henry should be King of France.

7. So King Henry married the Princess Catherine, and a year later a son was born to him; and then, while this little prince was yet only a few weeks old, Henry died. Then the King of France followed him to the grave, and the baby-boy, Henry the Sixth, was proclaimed King of England and France.

27. JOAN OF ARC (B. 1412; D. 1431).

1. Henry the Fifth had left orders that his brother, the Duke of Bedford, should govern France till his little son was older. But there were some among the princes and nobles of France who would not submit to the English baby-king nor to the duke. They did not

wish to be united with England, and they thought it right and just that Prince Charles, the Dauphin—that is, the eldest son of the late French king Charles VI.—should be king.

2. All the war therefore began over again; but the Dauphin was himself a very lazy young man, luxurious and indolent, and the Duke of Bedford proved too strong to be beaten.

3. However, there was a young peasant girl, called Joan of Arc, who used to mind her father's sheep in France; and while she sat on the hillsides, with the sheep browsing about her, she used to think of all the legends and the tales of saints that she had heard. But as she grew up, and heard of the battles between the French and the English, and of the villages plundered and burnt, and thousands of people put to a cruel death, she grew very sad; and as she watched her sheep she could think of nothing but the great misery of her countrymen.

4. She longed for saints and heroes like those in old stories to come and deliver the land. And sometimes, as she thought of these things, and prayed to God to save her country, it seemed to her that the voices of the saints answered her and promised help. One night she dreamed that she saw the beautiful angel Michael standing by her bedside. He was clad in bright armour, and his face shone; and he looked kindly at her, and said, "Arise, and go forth and seek out the Dauphin, who is the rightful king, and lead his armies to battle, and the enemies of France will fly before you."

5. Next morning Joan told her dream to her father, and prayed him to let her do the angel's bidding; but her father would not. Then Joan answered, very meekly, "Surely it is the will of Heaven that I should save France, and I dare not stay." So she went to the Dauphin.

6. The Dauphin was sitting in a grand room, in the midst of his courtiers, and she went straight up to the prince's chair, and knelt down before it, and said—"Gentle Dauphin, I am Joan the maid; and the angel Michael has sent me to tell you that you are the King of France, and that you will be crowned at Rheims, as your fathers were."

7. Then she asked the Dauphin to let her lead the French army to deliver the city of Orleans from the English; and she was so earnest that he was persuaded by her. So knights and soldiers were given to her; and then, clothed from head to foot in armour, and mounted on a white war-horse, with the great banner of France in her hand, she rode before her soldiers to the gates of Orleans. All the French thought she was an angel from heaven. Joan delivered Orleans from the English; and then she rode back to the Dauphin, and made him go with her to Rheims, and there he was crowned King of France.

8. At last, however, Joan fell into the hands of the English, and they condemned her to be burned to death as a witch; but as she stood in the burning fagots, and the flames were consuming her, she looked up to heaven, and cried, "The voice that called me came from God." And then her head sank upon



JOAN OF ARC.

her breast and she died. And an English soldier who was looking on said, "We are undone; we have burned a saint."

28. THE WARS OF THE ROSES (1455—1485).

1. King Henry VI. had nothing to do with the cruel death of Joan. He was but a lad of ten then, and his uncles governed for him. But they wrangled with each other, and with the great nobles of the realm; for as the king was young and sickly, each wanted to rule the kingdom, and perhaps to be king when Henry was dead.

2. Henry VI. led a miserable life amongst them all; for as he grew up, it appeared that he was not right in his mind, and at times he was quite mad. He was not fit to be a king; for in those days a king needed to be very strong and vigorous to enforce the laws and keep peace and order; and so his reign was full of wars and bloodshed. Henry himself was often kept as a captive by powerful nobles, and at last he was murdered.

3. In time the king's uncles died, and Richard, Duke of York, who was the king's cousin, became the most powerful prince in the kingdom, and determined to succeed to the throne on the death of Henry. But when Henry was about thirty years old a son was born to him. Then the Duke of York resolved to seize the crown at once.

4. He had friends among the most powerful noblemen in the country, who believed that if he were king he would govern England as they thought best, and put an end to the misfortunes of the country at home and in France. The Duke of York's nephew, the great Earl of Warwick, took part with him, and they raised an army together and declared war against the king.

5. Then began the Wars of the Roses. The badge of the king's party was a red rose, and the badge of the Duke of York's party was a white rose; and they fought till most of the nobles who had begun the war were slain or dead. The Duke of York was slain in battle, and Warwick also; and King Henry and his son were put to death, with many others. At last Edward, the son of the Duke of York, became king. He was a descendant of Edward III., and many people thought that he had a better right to the kingdom than Henry VI.

29. RICHARD III. (R. 1483—1485).

1. The victory of Edward IV. did not bring back peace for long. The friends of the Red Rose fled away from England, but they soon began to gather strength again. They made friends with all who were discontented with the government, and got ready to invade England and begin the war again. Besides, Edward's two brothers were each ambitious to be king instead of Edward's son. They were called George,

Duke of Clarence, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester. They were both wicked young men, violent and false and cruel. George was the elder, but Richard was the cleverer; and from the time that Warwick died, he became the most powerful man in England. All through his brother's reign he worked hard to make friends for himself, and to win the trust of the people.

2. Richard cared little what evil deeds he did, provided he got what he wanted. He had already helped to kill the son of King Henry, and many people believed that he had murdered King Henry as well. Then Richard made Edward believe that the Duke of Clarence was plotting against him, and Edward shut up his brother in the Tower; very soon he too was killed, and again people suspected that it was Richard who had slain him.

3. But Richard was so crafty that, in spite of all his crimes, he managed to persuade a great many people that he was a good man. He could put on the most winning manners, and talk very pleasantly. And though he was deformed, so that people called him "Crook-back Richard," he had a princely look about him: his face was handsome, and people liked him till they knew him well.

4. At length Edward the Fourth died. His two sons were quite little boys. So the Duke of Gloucester got himself appointed to rule for them, and the title of Protector was given to him.

5. The two little boys were not fond of their uncle Richard. They had other uncles, brothers of their mother, whom they loved better. So Richard cast the

other uncles into prison, and some of them he even put to death. Then, as he seemed to be the only man able to rule the land strongly, and to keep down civil war, the Londoners declared that Richard was to take the crown.

6. At first Richard cunningly declared that he did not wish to be king; but at last he pretended to be persuaded, and became king. Then, after a few months, the two little princes died suddenly in the Tower, and a horrible story was told all over the country that Richard had sent some brutal ruffians to murder them as they lay asleep in their bed. The murderers were so filled with pity when they saw the little boys sleeping, each with his arm round the neck of the other, that they could not bring themselves to cut their throats. But they dared not spare them altogether, for fear of the anger of the king; so they took the pillows of their bed and smothered them.

7. Richard had many enemies, who stirred up the people of England to resolve that he should no longer be their king; so the friends of the Red Rose marched to battle against Richard, under Henry, Earl of Richmond, a prince of the House of Lancaster.

8. The night before the battle, it is said that Richard was full of fear and remorse, and that his sleep was disturbed by awful dreams. All the crimes he had committed came back upon his mind, and he thought he saw the forms of the many princes he had murdered crowding round his bed. Next morning the battle of Bosworth began. Richard rushed over the field to find the Earl of Richmond and fight



COLUMBUS LANDING IN THE WEST INDIES (A.D. 1492).

with him hand to hand. But at last he was cut down and killed. Then the soldiers placed Richard's crown on the Earl of Richmond's head, and shouted "Long live King Henry the Seventh!"

9. King Henry the Seventh married a princess of the House of York. Her name was Elizabeth; she was the daughter of Edward the Fourth, and the sister of the little princes who were murdered in the Tower of London. And so the Roses were united and the wars ceased.

30. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (B. 1445 ; D. 1506).

1. In these old times the people of Europe knew very little about the rest of the world. They believed the earth was round, but were not sure; and they thought the great Atlantic Ocean stretched right away from the western coasts of Europe to the eastern coasts of Asia.

2. There was an Italian sailor, called Christopher Columbus, who determined that he would sail straight across this ocean and get to the Indies that way. But he had no money to fit out a ship, so he went to all the kings in Europe and begged them in turn to give him a ship for the voyage. But they all thought him mad, and would do nothing, until at last the Queen of Spain was persuaded to believe in him. So she made him an admiral, and gave him three ships, and he set off across the unknown ocean with ninety sailors and food for a whole year.

3. But when they had sailed over the wide sea for many weeks, the sailors lost courage and prayed him to turn home. But Columbus would not stop, and the ships sailed on and on. At last, one day Columbus was standing on the poop of his vessel, and looking out, as he had looked out so often before, when all at once he saw a light. He called a man to him, and the man saw it also; then he called a second man, and the second man saw it; and then Columbus was sure that he had at last got round the world to Asia, for this light could not be burning out in the sea, but must be some fire kindled upon firm ground.

4. And now all the sailors were glad, and forgot their weariness and their longing to return home. They pushed on the ships, and soon came truly enough to firm land, and they cast anchor and went ashore; and Columbus knelt down and kissed the ground, and gave thanks to God.

5. Everything in this new country was strange and wonderful. The people wore no clothes, and their skins were of dark yellow, and many of them were painted all over with gay colours and curious designs. At first they were in fear of Columbus and his men and fled from them; but after a little, when they grew accustomed to their look, they came near, making friendly signs to them. Speech was of no use, for neither understood the language of the other. But they made signs, and smiled and bowed, and showed plainly that they wished to be friends. Then Columbus gave them toys and trinkets that he had brought with him, glass beads, which they hung on

their necks and arms, and little coloured caps, which they stuck on their heads. And they were so pleased with these that afterwards they came swimming to the ships, bringing with them parrots and fruits, and some of the darts and spears that they used in battle ; and they offered these things to the sailors in exchange for more beads and caps.

6. Then, after three months, Columbus sailed away again, and got back to Spain, and went straight to court to tell Queen Isabella all that he had seen and done, and how he had reached the East Indies. He knelt down and kissed her hand, and she bade him rise up and sit beside her. And then he told her all the story of his voyage, and made her presents of strange birds and beasts that he had brought home with him. And throughout all Spain he was treated with great honour.

7. But Columbus had not come to the East Indies at all. The land he had visited was one of the group of islands now called the West Indies, which lie in the Mexican Gulf, between North and South America. Next year he went back again, and discovered more land ; and from that time navigators were continually going to and fro and exploring further and further, till at last they knew that it was not India, but a new world which they had discovered ; and found that there was another ocean, the Pacific, still beyond, between America and India.

31. HENRY VIII. (R. 1509—1547).

1. Henry the Eighth was the second son of Henry the Seventh, who won the battle of Bosworth, and married Elizabeth of York. So he was welcomed as king both by the Lancastrians and the Yorkists. When his father died he was nineteen years old. He was extremely handsome and strong; he was fond of pleasure and of lively company. He talked and laughed pleasantly, and had, moreover, plenty of sense and cleverness. He was a good scholar too, and liked the company of learned men, and learned men liked him; for whilst his elder brother Arthur was alive he had been brought up to be a priest. But Arthur died, and Henry became king in his place, and married his widow, Katharine of Arragon.

2. Katharine was the daughter of Isabella, the Queen of Spain, who sent forth Columbus on his voyage. It was not usual for a man to marry his brother's widow, but Henry had got special permission from the Pope to do it; and in those days it was always considered right to do what the Pope allowed.

3. Queen Katharine was very pretty and graceful, and her manners were exceedingly gentle and modest; and she loved the king with all her heart. But as years went on King Henry ceased to love Queen Katharine. He grew more and more wilful and passionate and violent. He wanted to have a son, to be king when he was dead; but of all Katharine's children only one lived, and that was a girl called Mary.



TRIAL OF QUEEN KATHARINE (1527).

4. So Henry began to wish that he had never married her; and he wrote to the Pope, and asked him to give him leave to put Katharine away. Every day the king's heart grew harder towards Queen Katharine, and he became more impatient for the Pope's decision; for he had fallen in love with another lady, whose name was Anne Boleyn, and he had made up his mind to marry her as soon as he had got rid of Katharine.

5. At last King Henry grew tired of waiting for the Pope's permission, and settled the matter for himself. He put away Queen Katharine and married Anne Boleyn, and declared that from henceforth the Pope should have nothing to do with English affairs. And the Parliament took his part, and decreed that the English Church should no more pay tribute to Rome, and that no English king or bishop need evermore ask permission of the Pope to do anything, or care a jot whether the Pope thought him right or wrong. Some of Henry's councillors thought this right, and some thought it wrong. But he quarrelled with every one who opposed him, and sent his best friends to the Tower when they disapproved of what he did; for by this time he had become altogether tyrannical.

6. Before long he became tired of Anne Boleyn too, and wanted to marry another lady, whose name was Jane Seymour. So Anne was condemned to death for high treason, and her head was cut off. Next day Henry married Jane Seymour; but she died after giving birth to the son he had wished for so long. Then for seven years he had no wife; but at the end of that time he married Anne of Cleves, a lady from Germany.

But he did not like her at all. He sent her away at once, and was very wroth with the councillors who had persuaded him to it. Then he married another English lady, Katharine Howard. Katharine Howard was very young and vain and foolish, and before she had been queen many months the king sent her to the Tower, and had her beheaded, like Anne Boleyn; and a year afterwards he married once more. This time he chose a widow, whose name was Katharine Parr; and she, being discreet and clever, managed to go on pleasing him for the rest of his life. When at last King Henry died, everybody was thankful to be rid of him; for no man or woman who had any dealings with him could feel safe while he lived.

82. CARDINAL WOLSEY (B. 1471; D. 1530).

1. Thomas Wolsey was the chief of Henry VIII.'s councillors, and it was he who led the king to plan the divorce of Katharine of Arragon. He was the son of a butcher who lived at Ipswich; but he was sent to Oxford when he was about fourteen, and there he studied industriously, and in time became chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. When Henry the Eighth became king, he made Wolsey one of his council of advisers, and gave him a splendid house in Fleet Street, in London, to live in.

2. Very soon Wolsey became the most powerful person at court. Henry the Eighth was as fond of him

as Henry the Second had been of Thomas Becket. He liked his talk, and he trusted his wisdom ; and Wolsey was ready to serve the king in all his undertakings. As time went on, the king made him Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor. He gave him also many other offices and lands, and a great deal of money ; and at last he got the Pope to make him a cardinal.

3. The splendour of Wolsey's household was a wonder to all the world. He kept a court like that of a king. Every day three long tables were spread in the hall of his palace for the officers of his household. The greatest noblemen of the country sent their sons to live in his palace and be trained under his care. He gave splendid banquets to the king, and Wolsey was zealous to please the king in all things.

4. But Wolsey never let all this pomp and pleasure interfere with his business as Chancellor. Every morning he rode in state from his palace to the Court of Chancery, where he gave judgment ; and a great number of lords and gentlemen attended him on his way. He used to wear his cardinal's dress of scarlet ; and his cardinal's hat, which was also scarlet, was carried before him on a cushion ; and on another cushion was carried the Great Seal of England, which the Lord Chancellor takes care of.

5. At last, however, King Henry turned against Wolsey, as he turned against his wives ; and then all those who wished to win the king's favour became enemies to the Cardinal. The Great Seal was taken away from him and given to a new Lord Chancellor, and Wolsey was shut up in the Tower. After a little



WOLSEY RIDING DOWN CHANCERY LANE.

while, the king allowed him to come out of prison, and he left London and went to his archbishopric in the north. But again the king grew wroth with him, and commanded that he should be sent back to the Tower.

6. So the king's officers seized him. But on the way to London, Wolsey fell very ill, and, knowing that he was dying, he stopped at a Religious House in the town of Leicester. The abbot came out to the gate to receive him, and Wolsey said to him, "Father abbot, I have come to lay my bones among you."

7. As he lay on his death-bed he thought over his life, and repented of his ambition and worldliness. He knew that he had cared more to win the favour of the king than to do what was most right; and he said to the officer who had charge of him, "If I had served my God as diligently as I have served my king, He would not have given me over in my old age."

33. THOMAS CROMWELL (B. 1490; D. 1540).

1. The Minister who served King Henry best after the fall of Wolsey was Thomas Cromwell. He was a clever and industrious man, and he was faithful and loyal to every one who employed him. But he had no firm belief in anything, and cared less to do what was right than to succeed in what he undertook.

2. Thomas Cromwell was the son of a blacksmith; in his youth he was a soldier, and then became Wol-

sey's secretary, and served him most faithfully to the end of his life. Cromwell defended Wolsey continually against his accusers, and he begged the king to be merciful to him. But Cromwell could not persuade the king.

3. Now many of the monks and nuns who lived in the Religious Houses had at that time ceased to live holy lives. They neglected the service of God, and paid no attention to the rules they had promised to obey, but lived lazy lives of pleasure and greediness.

4. King Henry, when he had cast off his obedience to the Pope, and made himself the head of the Church in England, appointed Thomas Cromwell to set the Religious Houses in order. So officers were despatched throughout England to visit them; but they were more eager to take the money from the Religious Houses than to mend the lives of the monks and nuns. They dealt as harshly with those who were living holily as with those who were given up to luxury and sin; and they collected such fearful stories about the lives of the monks and the nuns, that when their report was read out to the members of the House of Commons assembled in Parliament, they cried out angrily, "Down with them! down with them all!"

5. So the Parliament decreed that the Religious Houses should be put down, and that all the money that had belonged to the Religious Houses should pass to the king. It was Thomas Cromwell's business to see that these laws were carried out. He sent officers of state to all the monasteries and convents in every part of the country, and they turned out the monks

and nuns. And Cromwell and all his friends grew very rich out of the wealth of the monasteries.

6. But at last Cromwell too lost the king's favour; and he was executed by the king's command.

34. EDWARD THE SIXTH (R. 1547—1553).

1. Though he married so many wives, Henry the Eighth had but one son and two daughters, and these reigned in turn after him. His son, Edward the Sixth, was only nine years old when his father died. He became king in his stead; but he only lived to be sixteen.

2. King Henry had taken great pains with his son's education. Edward lived at Hampton Court, with five tutors to teach him; and he learnt Latin, Greek, French, and German, as well as all things belonging to the ceremony of courts and the duties of princes. A little friend of his own age was educated with him, who, when the prince did not learn his lessons, got whipped instead of him; but though Edward was never whipped himself, he was so gentle and loving that he always worked his hardest to save his friend from getting whipped for his sake.

3. His favourite playmates were his sister Elizabeth, the daughter of Anne Boleyn, and the Lady Jane Grey, his cousin, and they were both as fond of study as he was; he was fond also of Katharine's daughter Mary, though she was twenty-one years older than himself.

4. As soon as King Henry was dead, Edward's uncle, the Duke of Somerset, took all the power into his own hands, and ruled as if he were king. But before long the nation grew discontented with him ; so the Parliament took away the power from him, and condemned him to death. Then the Duke of Northumberland became the ruler of England ; he governed in the young king's name, and his son, Lord Guildford Dudley, married Edward's cousin, Lady Jane Grey. But all the people looked forward to the day when their beloved little king should be old enough to rule for himself.

5. But King Edward was very sickly and delicate, and suffered from many ailments which his doctors could not cure. And day by day he grew weaker and thinner, until he died ; and all his attendants and the whole nation grieved greatly at his death.

35. LADY JANE GREY (B. 1537 ; D. 1554).

1. The Duke of Northumberland was a very ambitious man, and he desired to make his son King of England. So when Edward was dying, he persuaded him to leave the crown to Lady Jane Grey, and shut out his two sisters from reigning. The Princess Mary was the lawful heir of the crown, but the Duke of Northumberland persuaded Edward that it would be bad for England that she should be queen, because she favoured the old religion, and would make the Pope head of the Church again ; and as Edward was set

against this, he consented to leave the crown to Lady Jane Grey.

2. As soon as he was dead, the Duke of Northumberland went to see Lady Jane, and told her that she was queen, at which she was most astonished and grieved. She said she did not want to be queen at all, and begged the duke to let her go on living quietly among her books which she loved; but he insisted that she must be queen, and took her to London and crowned her.

3. But the English people knew that Mary was their rightful queen, and were resolved that the Duke of Northumberland should not dispose of the kingdom as he pleased. So Mary was crowned at Westminster Abbey; and Lady Jane and her husband, and the Duke of Northumberland, were all sent to the Tower.

4. They were all condemned to death, for Queen Mary was very stern and unforgiving; and even poor Lady Jane Grey was beheaded too, though she had never cared for the crown, and accepted it only because King Edward had wished it, and the Duke of Northumberland had compelled her to be queen.

36. QUEEN MARY (Æ. 1553—1558).

1. The reign of Queen Mary was a very sad time for England. She had never forgiven the unjust and cruel treatment which her mother, Queen Katharine, had received, and she felt bitterly towards all the

bishops and lawyers who had encouraged Henry to put her away and quarrel with the Pope.

2. As soon as she became queen, she sent for the bishops who claimed to have the Pope as Head of the Church, and she called together all the members of the House of Lords, and all the members of the House of Commons, and made them kneel down humbly and confess that King Henry's Parliament had done very wrong in casting off the Pope ; and then the Pope was once more declared to be the Head of the Church in England.

3. Then she was persuaded by the friends of the Pope to punish the bishops who had taken part with King Henry, and she condemned them to be burned to death. More than two hundred people besides were burnt by her. A strong stake used to be driven into the ground, and fagots of wood were heaped up round it ; and then the man who was condemned to die was tied to the stake, and the fagots were kindled, and the flames rose up and consumed him.

4. Those who were for the Pope were called Roman Catholics, and those who were against the Pope were called Protestants ; and for more than a hundred years there were constant wars between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants all over Europe.

5. Queen Mary married Prince Philip, the son of a very great emperor, called Charles V., who ruled over half Europe and part of America. Philip was on the Pope's side, and persecuted his Protestant subjects. It was partly to please him that Mary was so cruel to the Protestants in England. The English people hated

him. He had cold, proud manners ; and he tried to act in England as if he were the King of the English, which Parliament had made a law to forbid. But after



PLACE OF MARTYRDOM, OLD SMITHFIELD.

a time Philip became King of Spain, and the Netherlands, and many other lands. So he went away from England and lived in Spain, which made Queen Mary very unhappy ; for she was exceedingly fond of him, though he did not care at all for her.

6. Poor Queen Mary had a very sad life, and her death was sad too. Her people hated her because of all the martyrs who had suffered death in her reign; and she died lonely and broken-hearted, leaving no one behind her who was sorry when she was gone.

37. QUEEN ELIZABETH (B. 1558—1603).

1. When Queen Mary died, her half-sister, the Princess Elizabeth, came to the throne; and then everything was changed again. Elizabeth was twenty years younger than Mary, and of a much gayer temper. She loved dancing and hunting, and pageants and banquets. She was handsome and graceful, and had a beautifully white skin and a quantity of golden hair; and she liked to ride through London and show herself to the people, who admired her, and were always pleased to see her. She was clever too, and had been as well educated as her brother Edward. She could read Greek and Latin, as well as French and Italian and Spanish; and she could talk gravely with learned men when she chose. There were a great many learned men at her court, and a great many poets, and a great many smart young courtiers; and they all admired her very much, and wrote poetry about her and paid her compliments.

2. Elizabeth was quite determined not to allow the Pope or anybody else to meddle in any English business, and she was determined to be obeyed in all things by all her subjects, as her father had been. She

took away from the Roman Catholics their offices, and put many of them into prison, and made them pay fines for not going to church ; and in the same ways she punished those Protestants who objected to be governed by the bishops she appointed.

3. Though King Philip of Spain had no love for Queen Mary, he was vexed when she died, because then he ceased to have any power in England, and England no longer obeyed the Pope. So he determined to marry Queen Elizabeth. But Queen Elizabeth would not have him ; she knew very well that if he became her husband he would insist upon ruling himself, instead of allowing her to rule. Moreover, the English people whom she loved would have been displeased with her if she had brought back Philip.

4. At last King Philip fitted out a magnificent fleet, and sent it against England, to compel Elizabeth and the English to serve him. He called it the "Invincible Armada," because *Armada* is the Spanish word for a fleet, and *invincible* meant that no other force could conquer it.

5. But the English sailors at that time were the best and bravest sailors in the world ; for though their ships were very small, they were accustomed to sail all over the ocean since the way to America and the Indies had been discovered. So, though the admirals and captains knew the fight would be a terrible one, they were not afraid. They collected all their ships of war, and waited for the Spanish ships.

6. At last the great fleet sailed along the English Channel and anchored opposite Dover, and on board

the ships were chains and fetters with which to bind the English. Then in the night the English admiral set eight of his oldest ships on fire and sent them all in flames into the midst of the Armada. Wherever they came the Spanish ships caught fire from them, and all were in terror and confusion. At day-break the English admirals sailed up and attacked them, and after a gallant fight the Spanish ships turned and fled out of the Channel towards Scotland.

7. But a great storm arose and scattered them, and so the Invincible Armada was all destroyed. Some ships sank, some were burnt, some were driven upon the rocks and wrecked, some were taken by the English, and very few of the Spaniards ever got back alive to Spain.

38. MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (B. 1542; D. 1577).

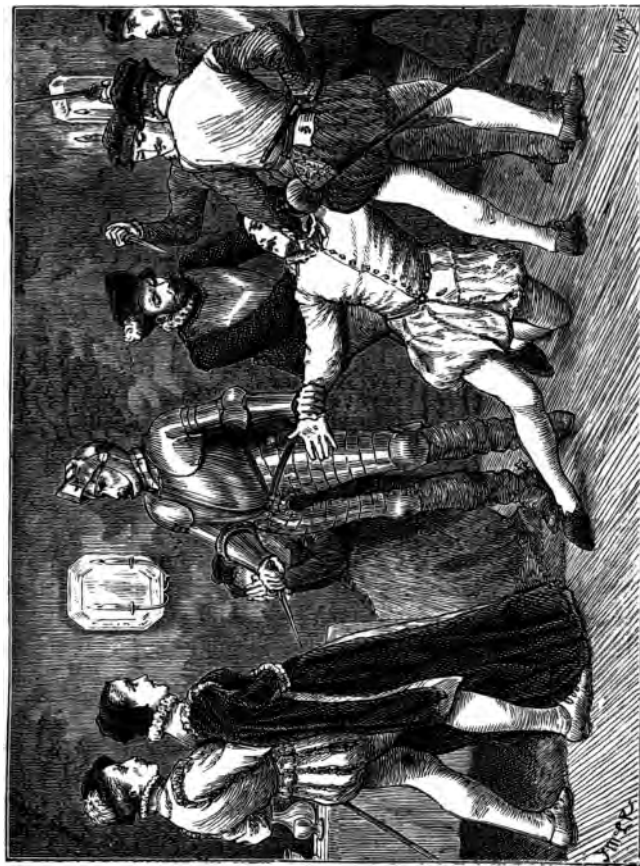
1. At the same time that Elizabeth was Queen of England, her cousin, Mary Stuart, was Queen of Scotland. Her father, the King of Scotland, died when she was eight days old; and before she was a year old the crown of Scotland was put upon her head, and she was called "Mary Queen of Scots." King Henry the Eighth of England was her uncle, and, like Edward I., he wanted her to marry his son, Edward VI., that the two kingdoms of England and Scotland might be united. But the Scotch people did not wish this. So the English sent an army into

Scotland to compel them. But the Scotch fought against the English, and Mary was sent to France and married to the king's son Francis.

2. A year after this marriage Francis became King of France, and then Mary Stuart became Queen of France as well as of Scotland. She was only sixteen years old, and she and the king passed all their days in dances and festivals and pleasure. But at the end of two years King Francis died, and Queen Mary had to go back to Scotland.

3. She had no children, but the heir to her throne was her cousin, Lord Darnley, and she married him that he might defend her from her enemies, and keep her unruly subjects in order. But she was not fond of him, and he grew jealous of an Italian minstrel called Rizzio, who was her favourite companion; and one day, while she was sitting with this man, Darnley burst into her room with his friends, and they dragged Rizzio out of the room and murdered him.

4. Thenceforth Queen Mary hated her husband, and her heart was filled with a great longing for revenge; and in this wicked temper she plotted against him with the Lord Bothwell, whom she loved. Lord Bothwell was a bold, strong man, very handsome and very pleasant, who feared to do no deed, however wild or bad, that would get him what he desired. He loved the queen, and wanted to marry her; and one night, just after Mary had come away from Lord Darnley's house, after sitting lovingly by his bedside (for he was ill), the house in which she had left him was blown up by gunpowder and he was killed; and then Mary and Both-



MURDER OF RIZZIO (1566).

well were married. Everybody said that Bothwell had committed the crime, and that Mary had consented to it. So the Scotch people took away her crown and put her in prison, and proclaimed her baby son, James the Sixth, King of Scotland.

5. Queen Mary escaped from prison and raised an army; but she was defeated in battle with her subjects, and obliged to fly to England, where she prayed Elizabeth to give her shelter. But Elizabeth was afraid of her, because many of the Roman Catholics wanted to make Mary queen instead of herself. So when Mary arrived in England she was seized and shut up in prison. For nineteen years she remained a prisoner, first in one castle and then in another. Then she began to plot against Elizabeth, so that at last Elizabeth sentenced her to death, and she was beheaded.

6. All this while that Mary Stuart had been a prisoner in England, her son James had been King of Scotland; and afterwards, when Elizabeth died, he became King of England also, because he was descended from a daughter of Henry VII. And so, at last, England and Scotland were united; and from that time one sovereign has reigned over the two countries.

39. SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

1. Among all the brilliant and accomplished courtiers who thronged Queen Elizabeth's court, the bravest and the noblest was Sir Philip Sidney. He was a

learned man, and wrote poetry ; but he was also a brave soldier, and was always ready to draw his sword and fight for the right.

2. Philip of Spain had many Protestants amongst his subjects in Holland. He was determined to make them submit to his will, and he treated them so cruelly that they rebelled against him. Then Sir Philip Sidney went at the queen's command to fight for the oppressed people against King Philip ; and he was so kind to the English soldiers who fought under him that they loved him as a brother, and were ready to give their lives for his.

3. Sidney and his men fought gallantly, and won great glory ; but one day he led them against a city called Zutphen, which was held by the Spanish soldiers of King Philip. There was a thick fog, and not till they were quite close did they see that a thousand Spanish horsemen were waiting to receive them. Then Sidney and the English charged bravely again and again, until the Spaniards turned about and fled. But in the moment of victory a shot from the wall struck Sidney's leg and wounded him so grievously that he had to be carried out of the fight by his men.

4. While the surgeon dressed his wounds, Sidney asked for a draught of water to quench his thirst ; and some one ran and fetched him a flask of water. But just as he put it to his lips, a dying soldier passed by on a litter, and he looked greedily at the water ; upon which Sir Philip took the flask untasted from his own lips and gave it to him, saying, "Thy necessity is greater than mine." The surgeons could not get

the fall out of his wound, and soon afterwards Sidney died. And then there was mourning throughout the army, as if every man had lost a brother or a son; and there was mourning for him also throughout all England among soldiers and poets, and scholars and women who had loved him for his gentle manliness.

40. SIR WALTER RALEIGH (b. 1552; d. 1618).

1. The finest gentleman of the queen's court was Sir Walter Raleigh. He was tall and handsome, with a fine open forehead and clear ruddy complexion, dark brown hair, and a little pointed beard on his chin. He was always grandly dressed in silks and satins and velvets. And the queen favoured him greatly.

2. One day, as the queen was walking in her gardens with her train, she came to a place where the road was wet and muddy. She stood still for a moment, for she was richly dressed; but Sir Walter Raleigh took off his splendid cloak and flung it over the mud and the puddles, and the queen passed over it unsoiled.

3. But Sir Walter was not only a fine gentleman of the court; he was a poet, a busy member of Parliament, a brave soldier, and a bold sailor. Of all things, he loved best sailing across the sea and exploring unknown lands; and next best, he loved going out to fight against the Spaniards.

4. It was now a hundred years since Christopher



SIR PHILIP SIDNEY AT ZUTPHEN (1586).

Columbus had reached the New World. Many sailors had followed him, and had discovered new lands and brought home new treasures. The Pope of Rome had made a present of the lands of the New World, and the wealth they contained, and the gold and silver in the mines, to the Kings of Spain; but the English Protestants did not mean to leave these to their enemies, and many brave sailors who had heard of the wonders of these countries sailed from England to make fresh discoveries and bring home rich treasures.

5. Sir Walter Raleigh was the most eager of them all. He wished to see Englishmen settling in North America and making the country their own. So he sent a band of men to found a settlement—or colony, as it was called—in Newfoundland; and others to a land which he called Virginia, after the virgin Queen of England.

6. Raleigh's ships brought home with them two things which the English had not before known—potatoes and tobacco. The colonists found them both growing in America, and they learned from the natives how to use them.

7. But when Raleigh was about fifty years old, Queen Elizabeth died, and James I. became king. There were many who were discontented with the king's rule, and plotted against him. And at last Guy Fawkes and his friends resolved to destroy the king and all his councillors by blowing up the Parliament with gunpowder. Just in time Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellar below, and was taken prisoner and beheaded. But before this the king's

suspicious had fallen upon Raleigh, and he had him imprisoned in the Tower. So he languished in prison from day to day, and week to week, for more than twelve years, and he spent his time in writing a History of the World.

8. At last, Raleigh sent word to the king that he knew of a rich gold mine in the New World, and that, if he were allowed to come out of prison, he would cross the seas once more and find it. Now King James was very fond of money; so, in his desire for the gold, he allowed Raleigh to come out of the Tower, and gave him a ship to go across the ocean.

9. Raleigh was an old man by this time, but he was still full of daring and energy; and he was overjoyed to find himself once more upon the sea. He took his eldest son with him, and sailed away to the New World. But he could not find the gold mine, and on the way the Spaniards killed Raleigh's son; so Raleigh, ill and broken-hearted, came back to England.

10. Now just at that time King James, who was a weak and irresolute king, was very anxious to please the Spanish, who feared and hated Raleigh; so he sent Raleigh back to prison, and commanded that he should be beheaded.

11. A number of Raleigh's old friends came on the scaffold to shake hands with him and bid him good-bye. He took leave of them, and then, after feeling the axe to know if it was sharp enough to do its work well, he knelt down and stretched out his hands in sign that he was ready. Then the executioner struck, and the life of the brave old man was ended.

41. OLIVER CROMWELL (B. 1599 ; D. 1658).

1. When James I. died he was succeeded by his son Charles I. He was the grandson of Mary Queen of Scots, and his life ended in the same awful way that hers had ended.

2. Charles I. was not reckless as she had been, nor selfish like his father James I. ; but he was extremely obstinate, and, what was worse, men found that they could not trust his word. He maintained that he had the right to tax the people himself, and to rule them as he pleased. But the English were determined to be governed by their old laws. Civil war began between the king and the Parliament, and after a long struggle, and many battles, King Charles fell into the hands of the Parliament and was beheaded.

3. Of all the men who resisted King Charles in Parliament and on the battle-field, the most famous was Oliver Cromwell. Oliver Cromwell was a very earnest man, filled with a great desire to serve God faithfully, and he was also very able, strong, and determined. He was very sure that King Charles' way of government was wrong, and that it was the duty of all Englishmen who loved their country to stand up against him. And having once made up his mind to this, he acted accordingly, and shrank from no word or deed that was necessary to get rid of him.

4. Cromwell was a man of middle height, rather stout, and of a reddish-brown complexion. He was awkward in his movements, and rough and blunt of

speech. At times, too, he gave way to great fits of passion, and spoke with violence, forgetting all courtesy and dignity. His dress was plain and rather slovenly; and the fine gentlemen of the king's party used to laugh at his ungainly manners and harsh voice.

5. His regiment was made up of men very much like himself, sober, earnest, God-fearing; but rough in their manners, and terrible when they were roused to anger. All swearing, drinking, plundering, and blasphemy were sternly forbidden amongst them. They were nicknamed "Cromwell's Ironsides," because they were so strong and steadfast that people said their sides must be of iron instead of flesh and blood.

6. However, on the other side the king's friends were just as sure that *he* was right, and a great number of the English thought so too, and fought for Charles. And when the king was beheaded they refused to submit to the Parliament or to Cromwell, and went on fighting for the king's son, Charles the Second. Those who took part with the Parliament refused to call Charles king; for the Parliament had declared that there should be no king henceforth, and had appointed a Council of State to rule the country—which was now called the "Commonwealth" instead of the "Kingdom."

7. But at last Cromwell won a great victory at Worcester, and Prince Charles was obliged to fly for his life. He hid in all sorts of curious places, and once, when he was in a wood, he was so nearly overtaken that he was obliged to climb up into an oak-tree and remain hidden in its boughs, while the soldiers hunted about all round him, and passed backwards and



CROMWELL DISSOLVING THE LONG PARLIAMENT (A.D. 1653).

forwards under his feet. At last he managed to get away across the sea to France.

8. But before long the Parliament quarrelled with Cromwell. It was thirteen years since it had been elected; and Cromwell resolved that the nation should elect a fresh one. So he went one day into the House of Commons, and called in soldiers, and they dragged the Speaker from his chair, turned all the members out of the House, and locked the doors.

9. Oliver Cromwell ruled England about five years, and some of his friends would have made him king if they had been able. The end of his life was sad. Many of the friends who had stood up with him against the king in Parliament, and who had fought side by side with him, turned against him. They thought he took too much power upon himself, and sought his own glory instead of his country's good. But while he ruled, England was greatly respected abroad, and he protected the Protestants in foreign lands from persecution.

10. Many hated him, and tried to kill him, so that he dared not sleep twice in the same bed, and wore armour under his clothes, and was surrounded by guards. He became moody and sullen, and fell into a melancholy sickness. Then one of his daughters whom he loved very dearly fell ill and died; and this he felt more than anything. And very soon after he died too. And as he lay on his death-bed, he said, "I would be willing to live to be further serviceable to God and His people; but my work is done, yet God will be with His people."

42. JOHN MILTON (B. 1608; D. 1674).

1. Soon after King James came out of Scotland to reign in England, one of the greatest English poets was born in London. His name was John Milton; from his boyhood he was determined to write a great poem. He had read in old books of history about a famous prince called Arthur, who once ruled over the Britons, and was served by a great company of very noble knights, who did good and glorious deeds continually. So about Arthur he meant to write.

2. When Milton grew up he still kept the same mind. But the struggle between Charles I. and the Parliament broke out and interrupted all Milton's thoughts and plans. He was on his travels in Italy; but he hastened home to aid the Parliament.

3. On his way back he heard that his dearest friend was dead; and it seemed to him that all happiness was over for him, and that the rest of his life would be sad and lonely. He poured out his sorrow in a long sad poem, and then said to himself that he would write no more poetry till his country should be delivered from the trouble in which it now stood.

4. At last peace was restored, and John Milton was chosen to be secretary to the Council which helped Cromwell in the government. His duty was to write letters in Latin to all the kings and queens of Europe, telling them all that Cromwell and his Council determined to do in foreign affairs.

5. Now Milton was suffering much from bad eye-

sight, and his doctor had told him that unless he gave up reading and writing for a time he would lose his sight altogether, and be blind for the rest of his life. But Milton would not cease to labour for his country, and at last he became quite blind. A friend once asked him how he bore his blindness so patiently, and he answered that he was comforted by the thought that he had lost his sight in serving his country.

6. Very soon after the death of Cromwell, Charles the Second was called back to be King of England. And then all the men who had had honours and power during Cromwell's reign fell into disgrace. Milton, among others, lost his work and the wages he had been paid for it. And now, at last, he had time to write the great poem he had thought of all his life. He could not write it with his own hand because of his blindness. But there were many young men who honoured him for the noble life that he had lived, and were glad to serve him by reading and writing for him. He had daughters, too, who sometimes helped him in these ways. So Milton thought out his poem in his mind, and then dictated it word by word to his friends and his daughters.

7. But after all this great poem was not about King Arthur and his knights. Milton had changed his mind as he grew old, and he chose instead to tell again the story that is written in the Book of Genesis about Adam and Eve and the sin of disobedience, for which they were turned out of the Garden of Eden. He called this poem "Paradise Lost;" and when he had finished it, he wrote another, which he called

"Paradise Regained." And in this second poem he described the Temptation of Jesus Christ in the Wilderness, and showed how men may win back the best sort of happiness by choosing to do right and refusing to do wrong.

43. CHARLES II. (a. 1660—1685).

1. All England welcomed back Charles II., for men were tired of the uncertain and changing government under which they had lived since the Civil War began, and Charles promised that he would rule justly and lawfully. But no man could rely on his word.

2. Charles' reign is famous for three great disasters. First, there came the Great Plague of London. People grew sick and died by hundreds and thousands. The king, and everybody else who could, fled from London; but when once the plague had broken out in a house, there a great cross of red was painted on the door, and no one was allowed to pass out till the sick were all dead or recovered. Very few recovered. At night the dead-carts went round. Men bearing torches walked before, and rang a bell, and cried, "Bring out your dead!" And so they were borne away to be buried by hundreds in great pits.

3. The next year came the Great Fire of London. Most of the London houses were then built of wood. The fire broke out at the place where the Monument now stands, and spread very rapidly. St. Paul's



THE DUTCH IN THE MEDWAY (1667).

Cathedral and eighty-eight churches were burnt, and four hundred streets. Thousands of men lost all in the flames, and the fields round London were crowded with homeless and ruined people, and strewn with furniture and precious things which they had carried from the burning city. There were no fire engines in those days, and the only way in which it was at last possible to stop the flames was to blow up the streets all round with gunpowder, so that when the fire reached them there were no houses left to burn. At last, after burning for three days and nights, the fire was checked; but it took many years to build up again St. Paul's and the ruined churches and streets. There was a great architect living then, called Sir Christopher Wren, and he it was who built St. Paul's and many other churches of the city.

4. The third disaster was the landing of the Dutch upon the banks of the Medway and the burning of Sheerness. It is more than two hundred years ago, and no foreign foes have set foot in England since that day. King Charles—the Merry Monarch, as he was called—was an idle spendthrift. The money with which ships ought to have been built and the sailors paid had been wasted on feasts and revels; so the English sailors grew disheartened, and would fight no more; and when the Dutch sailed up the Thames, there was no one to resist them. Had they pleased, they might have assaulted London as the Danes had done seven centuries before; but they turned up the Medway instead, and burnt the English ships and the houses on the banks.

5. So Charles II.'s reign was full of disaster and disgrace. He and his brother James, who succeeded him, were always plotting with the French king, and used to take money from him as payment for doing what he wished. They cared nothing for their oaths to obey the laws of England, but endeavoured, by the help of the French king, to take away the liberties of the English people, and to rule them according to their own will.

44. WILLIAM AND MARY (R. 1688—1702).

1. However, neither King Charles II. nor King James II. had any sons. Their sister had married the Prince of Orange, and her son William was now the ruler of the Dutch. He was one of the bravest soldiers of the day, and was the best and wisest prince in Europe. He was the eldest living grandson of King Charles the First, and had married Mary, the eldest daughter of King James II., who was a true and noble woman.

2. So the English bore patiently with the misrule of King James, believing that it would not be long before his daughter Mary would succeed him, and that William of Orange would come over from Holland with her, and teach her to govern as wisely and as lawfully as he had governed in Holland.

3. However, King James married again, and a son was born to him, so that Mary ceased to be the next heir to the crown. Then the English determined to

wait no more, and they asked William and Mary to come over with an army and help them to drive James out of England. When William landed at Torbay, James found that his army would not fight for him, so he determined to fly away to France secretly, and seek help from the French king Louis.

4. In the middle of a stormy night the queen came out at the back door of the palace, dressed like a homely country woman, and attended by two waiting-women and two French gentlemen. One of them carried the little prince in his arms, wrapped in a warm fur cloak, for it was in the middle of December, and there was a cold wind and driving rain. A yacht was all ready to take them across the sea to the French king.

5. As soon as King James heard that his wife and the baby had arrived safely at the French coast, he got away too, and crossed the sea and joined them, and King Louis received him very affectionately. Soon after this William and Mary were crowned king and queen, and the Parliament of Scotland invited them to rule over Scotland too.

6. But the people of Ireland, who were almost all Roman Catholics, still preferred King James to William. So King Louis gave James ships and soldiers and money, and sent him over to Ireland. Then William also sailed over with an army, and a great battle was fought on the banks of the river Boyne, near Dublin, in which William entirely defeated the army of King James.

7. King William was slightly wounded while he

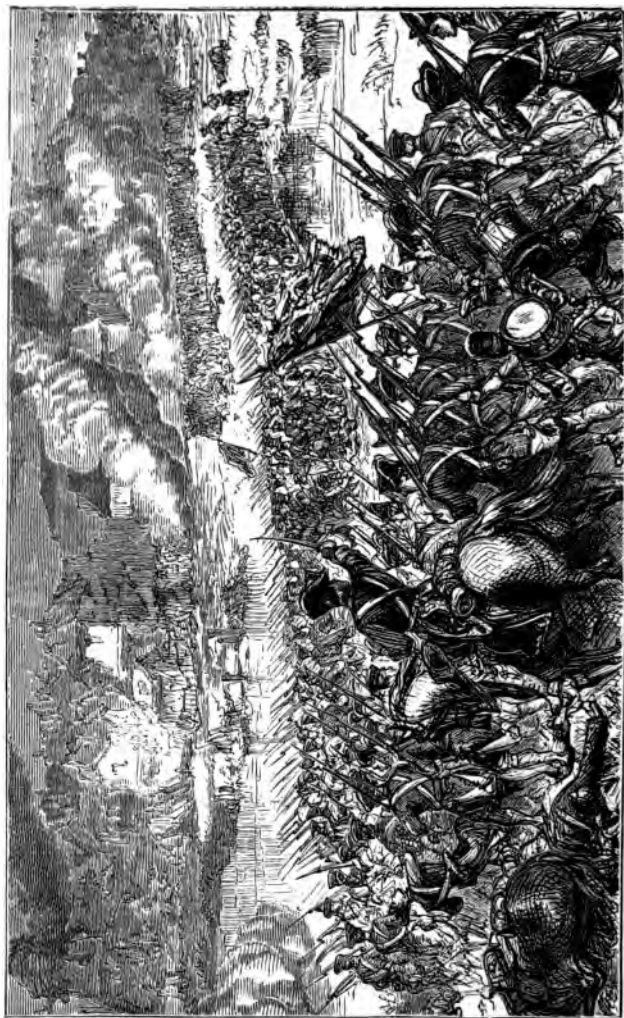
was looking over the ground on which the armies were going to fight; and he was ill besides. But all the same he was on his horse for nineteen hours that day, and he was always to be found where the fighting was the hardest and the balls were flying thickest. King James did not fight at all. He sat on his horse on a hill near by, and watched his soldiers fighting and dying for him; and as soon as he saw that he had lost the battle he fled away.

8. So James was driven out of Ireland. The King of France went on fighting for him for many years; but the English were determined that he should not come back to reign over them, and William and Mary ruled England till they died. They had no children, and Mary's sister Anne succeeded them and became queen.

45. THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH (B. 1650; D. 1722).

1. When Queen Anne was crowned, the English were just preparing for a new war with King Louis of France. King James was dead, but Louis was trying to make his son—the Pretender, as he is called—King of England; and he was also trying to make his own grandson King of Spain, so that no other nation should be able to resist him. But the English were resolved to prevent both these designs.

2. So the English raised a strong army, and Queen Anne chose as the general a brave and skilful soldier,



MARLBOROUGH AT THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM (A.D. 1704).

whose name was Churchill, and who was made Duke of Marlborough as a reward for the great victories which he won for England. Queen Anne had known him all her life. He had been a page to her father James before he was king, and had been the tutor of her own son. Besides, his wife had been her dearest friend ever since she was a little girl. Lady Marlborough was tall and handsome, and very clever. The queen loved her devotedly.

3. So Marlborough went off to the wars, and he bade his wife good-bye by the water-side before he went into his ship; and afterwards he sent her a letter, in which he said he would have given his life to come back from the ship and kiss her once more, but that he dared not, because he knew that he should not be able to tear himself away from her a second time.

4. Lord Marlborough and his army fought many battles against the King of France, and won many victories. He marched through country after country, and at last won the greatest victory of all at Blenheim, on the river Danube, almost a thousand miles away from England. It lasted from noon till nightfall. Numbers of men were killed and wounded. Neither side would give way, and neither side could get the victory. At last Marlborough gathered his cavalry on the top of a slope and charged down more desperately than ever upon the French cavalry, so they could no longer stand against him. Their line broke, and the English dashed in and cut them to pieces. Marlborough pushed on, and drove them into the river. The victory was won; and Marlborough quickly

despatched a messenger to carry the glorious news to England.

5. Then there was great rejoicing in England. Queen Anne commanded a splendid palace to be built for Marlborough, and she called it Blenheim, in memory of this terrible battle.

46. PRINCE CHARLIE, THE YOUNG PRETENDER

(B. 1720 ; D. 1788).

1. Queen Anne had children, but they all died, and the old friends of her father, King James, began to hope that on her death the Pretender would come over from France, and that the Stuarts would reign again in England.

2. But the English were determined that they would trust the Stuarts no more. So they decided in Parliament, when Queen Anne's last son died, that upon her death they would take for their king George, Prince of Hanover, who, although a German, was descended in a direct line from James I.

3. When the time came, the Pretender's friends, who were called the Jacobites, were all ready to make him king ; but their plot was defeated, and George of Hanover, and his son and his descendants after him, have ruled over England till the present day.

4. However, the Jacobites were constantly trying to restore the Stuarts. The Roman Catholics wished to have them as kings, because they were of their own

religion ; and the Scotch especially longed to have a king of their old royal house to reign over them.

5. So, when King George's son, who was called King George the Second, was on the throne, the Jacobites sent word to Prince Charlie, the son of the old Pretender, to say that if he would land in Scotland they would crown him king, and fight for him till they had driven the Hanoverian princes out of England.

6. The French king fitted out a fleet to bring him over, but it was driven back by a storm ; so in the end Prince Charlie came over with only seven friends, and landed in Scotland. Then the brave Highlanders all joined him, and they marched southwards towards England.

7. At first the English army was taken by surprise, and Prince Charlie and his Highlanders came on to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to Carlisle, and from Carlisle to Derby. But scarcely an Englishman joined them. And at last the courage even of the Highlanders failed them, for they found themselves with very little money or gunpowder in the middle of a strange country. So they all turned and fled back to Scotland ; and Prince Charlie, who was as brave as a lion, went with them, very sad and disappointed. By this time King George's army was all in readiness, and they pursued Prince Charlie wherever he went, and at last destroyed his army utterly at the battle of Culloden. Then Prince Charlie fled for his life, as King Charles the Second had before him. He galloped away all through the night, and took refuge in an island on the coast.

8. But the English heard he was there. Their ships sailed round and round the island to prevent his escape, while the soldiers landed to hunt the whole island for him; and nobody dared to help him or give him shelter. However, a lady called Flora Macdonald came to the prince's rescue. She brought him women's clothes, and dressed him up as her maid-servant, and then they got into a boat together, and rowed away to another island.

9. Flora Macdonald was taken prisoner, but not till Prince Charlie was far out of reach. Sometimes he hid amongst the mountains, sometimes in caves with robbers; but one day a French ship came near the shore, and Prince Charlie got on board and escaped safely to France.

47. THE EARL OF CHATHAM AND HIS HELPERS.

1. King George II., whom Prince Charlie thus tried to drive out of England, was not a great man himself, but he was served by some of the greatest Englishmen that have ever lived.

2. The French and the English were constantly at war; for the French king was always scheming to make himself more and more powerful, and the English feared that some day King George's possessions in Hanover would be taken from him, and all their own colonies also, and that in the end the French king would send *over an army* and set up the Stuarts again in England.

3. But there was a great man called William Pitt, who was at the head of the Government, and was made Earl of Chatham for his services to the nation. He was a splendid orator, and aroused the nation to feel how dangerous the position of England was, and persuaded them to make great sacrifices, and to pay heavy taxes, as nations must do when they are in danger; so the war with France was carried on in every part of the world where English and French met, and especially in India and America, where by this time both nations had dominions.

4. The leader of the English in India was named Robert Clive. He was a clerk at Madras; but the French began to stir up the Indian princes to attack the English merchants, and at length seized Madras.

5. Clive dressed himself up like an Indian and escaped, and thenceforth became a soldier. He captured city after city. Wherever he went he conquered, and at length the French gave up the struggle, and from that time left India to the English.

6. About the same time Pitt sent out a soldier called James Wolfe to fight with the French in America. Their chief city was called Quebec, in Canada; and this city Pitt told Wolfe that he must conquer. It was on the top of a high precipice, and was defended by strong walls, and by soldiers and cannon. But in the middle of the night Wolfe brought his soldiers to the foot of the precipice in boats. They climbed up in silence by the help of the trees which grew amongst the rocks, and by dawn they were all at the top.

7. The French general Montcalm was as brave a man as Wolfe himself, and led on his troops to attack the English and drive them back. Wolfe waited till there was but forty yards between them; then he bade his soldiers fire, and at once led them forward at a charge.

8. Wolfe was struck by bullet after bullet, but nothing stopped him, until a third bullet wounded him mortally in the chest. He could stand no longer by himself, and cried to an officer, "Hold me up. Do not let my brave fellows see me drop."

9. So they bore him away out of the battle, and gave him water. Suddenly the officer cried, "They run! they run!"

10. "Who run?" asked the dying man; and when he knew it was the French, he exclaimed, "Then I die happy."

11. Thus England became supreme in North America as well as in India; but when King George III. succeeded his father, he no longer followed the counsels of Pitt, but chose unwise counsellors, who ruled badly over the English colonists in America; so the colonists declared they would obey the King of England no more. They revolted under a great man named George Washington, and called themselves the United States of America.

12. Lord Chatham protested again and again against the measures which thus drove the English in America to rebellion; but he was no longer listened to, and he died in Parliament after making a great speech to show how the king should rule American subjects *more justly*. But his son William inherited his



DEATH OF WOLFE (A.D. 1759).

father's genius, and by his wise counsels the English gained the victory in a still greater war with France which soon followed.

48. HORATIO NELSON (B. 1758 ; D. 1805).

1. King George III. reigned over England sixty years, and just half-way through his reign this great war with France broke out.

2. The French people had been growing more and more unhappy and discontented under their kings. At length there came the French Revolution. The people revolted, and cut off the heads of the king and queen, and of all who favoured them. For a time no man's life was safe, and the whole country was given up to murder and robbery.

3. Then there rose up a Corsican soldier called Napoleon Bonaparte, and he became the leader of the French armies, and was at last crowned Emperor of the French. And he grew more and more proud with his victories, and at last resolved to conquer England and every nation around.

4. The English were determined that this should not be, and they joined with the other nations of Europe to overthrow Bonaparte. So he gathered a vast army with which he meant to invade England, and conquer it for himself.

5. But there was a dauntless English sailor called *Horatio Nelson*, who pursued the French ships wherever

they went, and upset many of Bonaparte's plans. Since he was fourteen his life had been spent in fighting the battles of his country, and he had lost one eye and one arm in battle.

6. He was a very clever sailor and a brave fighter ; and he was such a kind officer that all the men who served under him loved him as if he had been their father. When little boys who had not been to sea before came on board his ship, and were afraid to climb the rigging as sailors must, he used to go up before them, and show them just where to set their feet, and how to catch hold of the cords. He never laughed at them for being afraid, or spoke roughly to them. Then in battle he always shared the dangers of his men ; and in hard times, when there was dearth of food, he refused to fare better than they did, but chose to suffer whatever they suffered.

7. At last Nelson overtook the whole fleet of France at Cape Trafalgar and resolved to attack it, and destroy the French navy utterly. When all the ships were ready, Nelson cried, " England expects every man to do his duty ;" and these words were signalled to all the ships, and the men knew that they were to begin to fight. They gave three cheers, and the battle began.

8. It lasted between five and six hours, and before it was half over a bullet struck Nelson, and he fell on his face mortally wounded. Three sailors carried him below, and there he lay in great agony while the battle went on. But when he heard that his men were fighting splendidly, and that twenty French ships had been taken, his face brightened up with joy, and he

said, "I am satisfied; I have done my duty." And so he died.

9. News of Nelson's death came to England with news of the victory; and there was more mourning than rejoicing through the land. But the French fleet was destroyed, and there was nothing more to fear from Napoleon on the sea.

10. Trafalgar Square, in London, is named after this famous victory, and Nelson's column was set up there to his memory.

49. THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON (B. 1769; D. 1852)

1. Nelson's victory destroyed Napoleon's power on the sea; but his power on land was still unbroken. His armies overran all Europe. They conquered every nation. Napoleon overthrew governments and dethroned kings; seized kingdoms, and set up whom he would to reign over them. He made three of his brothers kings. But the Spaniards would not have a brother of Napoleon to rule over them, and they took up arms against him.

2. Then the English sent their armies to help them, under a general named Wellesley, who was afterwards made Duke of Wellington, to fight in what was called the Peninsular War.

3. The fighting went on for a long while; and all over Europe men talked and thought of nobody but *this mighty Emperor Napoleon*, and his armies that

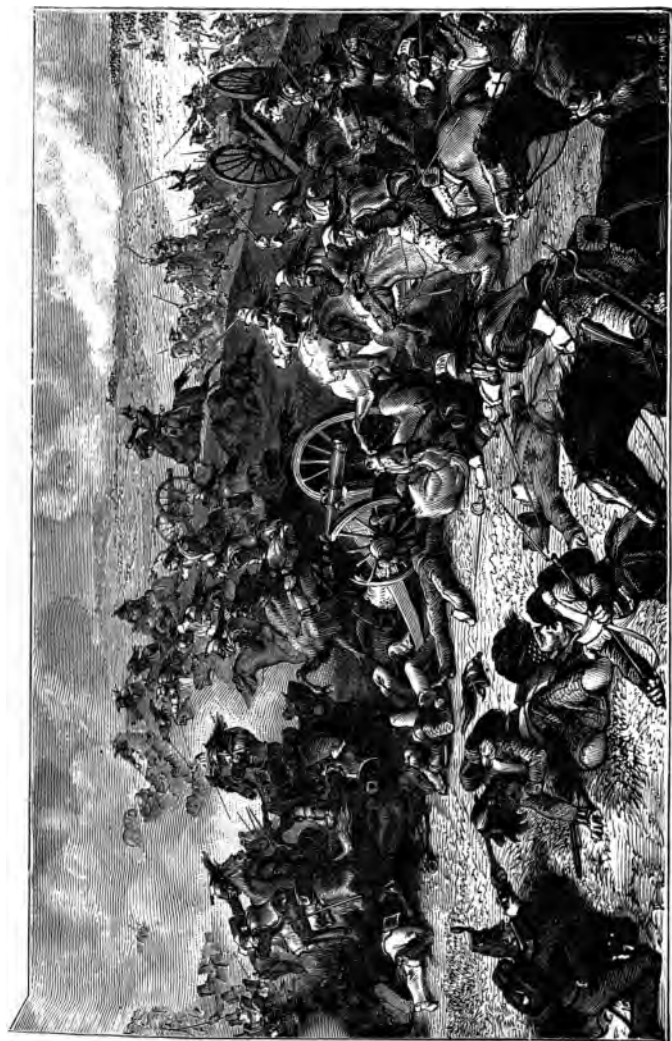
conquered everywhere. But suddenly his good fortune left him. He had marched his army to conquer Russia, and had reached Moscow. But winter came on. The snows were so heavy that they blocked up the roads, and the cold was so great that Napoleon's soldiers, though they were strong men who had borne many hardships, died by hundreds and thousands, and very few ever reached their homes again.

4. At the same time Wellington gained a great victory at Vittoria, in Spain, and drove the French quickly back into France.

5. The news of this victory, and of the destruction of Napoleon's army, spread over Europe, and his enemies took courage and advanced upon France. Napoleon managed to muster another army in a wonderfully short time, and he made a gallant resistance; but it was of no use.

6. The armies of Russia, Prussia, and Austria advanced to the gates of Paris. The citizens of Paris surrendered to them, and consented to abandon Napoleon, and to receive as their king the brother of the king they had killed. And Napoleon was sent to live in a little island called Elba, that lies in the Mediterranean.

7. Every one thought the struggle was over; but soon news came that Napoleon had escaped from his island and was marching to Paris, and gathering an army as he went. And again the allied armies were called into the field. Lord Wellington gathered his forces together in Belgium, and the Prussian general also collected his army, and planned to join the English.



THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO (A.D. 1815).

So Napoleon marched into Belgium to conquer the English and Belgian soldiers collected by Wellington, before the Prussians had joined them.

8. The armies of Wellington and Napoleon met at a little village called Waterloo, and fought a deadly battle. The battle began at eleven o'clock in the morning, and at six o'clock in the evening it was still doubtful who would win. Wellington had expected the Prussian army to join him in the battle. So he fought very guardedly all day, waiting to make his most desperate attack till the Prussians were there to help him. But the day went on; the Prussians did not come, and Wellington grew very anxious. At last he saw the smoke of their guns at another part of the field, and knew that they were come. Then he charged boldly from his side, and the Prussians charged from their side, and all the French army broke up and fled.

9. So the war ended, and there was peace; and Napoleon was again taken prisoner, and kept by the English on an island called St. Helena till his death.

10. The Duke of Wellington fought no more battles, though he lived on for a great many years, and was very busy in Parliament. Many people who are still living can remember him quite well. He was rather tall, and he had broad shoulders, and brown hair, keen blue eyes, and a very large hooked nose; and when he grew old he stooped very much, and his hair turned quite white.

50. QUEEN VICTORIA (B. 1819.)

1. So at last the long war with France was over; and after George III., his two sons, George IV. and William IV., reigned one after the other. They had no children, and the heir to the crown was their little niece, the Princess Victoria, who lived with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, in the palace in Kensington Gardens.

2. One morning, very early, when the Princess Victoria was eighteen years old, two gentlemen came driving fast up the road to the palace. They were the Lord Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury, and they came to tell her that her uncle King William was dead, and that she was Queen of England. Everybody was still asleep, the shutters were shut, and the doors fast locked. They knocked and knocked again, but for a long time nobody answered. At last the porter heard them and let them in. The princess was asleep, but got up quickly and came down. There were tears in her eyes when she met them, for she was fond of her uncle King William, and she was much more sorry to hear that he was dead than glad to be Queen of England.

3. Afterwards she went to Westminster Abbey to be crowned, and as she drove through the streets of London crowds of people gathered on the pavement and at the windows and doors of houses, to see her pass and to cry, "God save Queen Victoria!" "Long live *Queen Victoria!*"

4. Three years after, Queen Victoria married her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in Germany, who was called the Prince Consort. The Queen and the Prince Consort loved one another dearly, and lived very happily together; but after twenty-one years Prince Albert fell ill and died, and the Queen has never forgotten that great sorrow. Up till that time she used to go about a great deal among her people, who liked to see her and to cheer her as she passed in the streets. And every year, when the Parliament met, she used to go to the Parliament House at Westminster, and put on her royal robes and her crown, and make a speech to the Lords and Commons about the affairs of the country. But after the Prince Consort died she no longer cared to keep up her royal state, and to go about among crowds of people; and so now people see her much less than they used to do.

5. When the Queen is in London she lives at Buckingham Palace; but she has several homes in the country, at which she spends a great part of the year. Sometimes she stays at Windsor Castle, and sometimes she goes to Scotland, where she has a house in the Highlands called Balmoral; and sometimes to the Isle of Wight, where she has a house called Osborne.

6. But though the people see the Queen but seldom, she works day by day for their good, and has always maintained the laws of England, and observed them strictly herself, and governed by the advice of the wisest men, whom the nation has chosen to make the laws in Parliament. So the English people love her

now just as much as they did in the beginning,
still go on singing "God save the Queen!"

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us ;
God save the Queen !

O Lord our God, arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall.
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix ;
God save us all.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign ;
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing, with heart and voice,
God save the Queen !

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